

For Palestinians, little to do in labour ministry

GAZA CITY (AP) — Outside the bare offices of the Palestinian authority's labour ministry, hundreds of workers jostled on Saturday for a peek at the list of available jobs — in Israel.

"Anyone with a pass to Israel is guaranteed of entering paradise," said 28-year-old mechanic Sufian Ghaneim, elated after learning that as of Sunday he will be allowed to work in a construction site in the coastal Israeli town of Ashdod.

A day earlier Israel lifted a weeklong closure of the strip, and had sent 153 new permits for workers whose access to Israel has been approved.

The ministry's reliance on Israel to provide the permits highlighted a bitter irony darkening the early going of the self-rule: The Israeli occupiers may be out of Gaza, but many Palestinians want nothing more than access to jobs in Israel.

The self-rule government is mainly a conduit in this process, and it has otherwise posted little economic good news.

Construction worker Jalal Dalal was disappointed.

"Every day I come here to check for my name, and every day I return empty-handed," he said, waiting to register as unemployed.

With unemployment estimated at 60 per cent among Gaza's 850,000 Palestinians and only some 25,000 allowed into Israel, Mr. Dalal's fate was the more common.

Inside the decrepit offices, officials were left with little to do but let the unemployed workers' registration forms pile up on tables of rotting wood.

With no tax collection system, few development plans and international aid still being held up, unemployment compensation or job placement is a distant dream.

Expectations among Palestinians were raised after the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord by pledges of more than \$2 billion in aid over five years and talk of massive foreign investments in infrastructure.

But little has changed on the ground. Much of the aid

is being held up by the Palestinians' inability — or unwillingness — to meet Western donors' strict accounting criteria for how they spend the aid.

"We do not have a prescription in hand to cure the (economic) illness in a day and a night," said Economy Minister Ahmad Qourie in an interview with the Associated Press. He said the government needed time.

But many of his own officials are losing patience.

"It is chaos," said Abdul Qader Ashqar, director of Gaza's labour office. "We have no papers, no computers and no instructions."

"We have wasted more than two months," said Samir Holesh, deputy director of PECDAR, the body set up to administer economic aid.

"Our ministers do not know what to do. They have not set up structures for ministries. They made no laws, they collected no taxes," he said.

Frustration among Gazans boiled over last Sunday, when hundreds of workers denied access to Israel protested at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. In the melee, two Palestinians were killed and dozens of Arabs and Israelis wounded.

Palestinian and Israeli troops at one point exchanged fire, violating a basic tenet of their peace accord.

A stunned Israel sealed off the strip for six days — a popular move among Israelis who fear some of the Palestinian workers may carry out attacks inside Israel.

Okay for bank

Israel on Sunday granted Jordan's Gulf Bank permission to operate in the West Bank, officials said Sunday.

Bank Chairman Zahair Awtarani said the bank would begin operating on Monday.

Mr. Awtarani said the bank, whose first branch will be in Nablus, hoped to help the Palestinians build up their economy as their move from Israeli occupation to self-rule.

Only the Gaza Strip and the West Bank's Jericho area have gained autonomy so far.

Algerian group offers to stop killing foreigners

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's most feared Armed Islamic Group has offered to call a halt to the killing of foreigners if the authorities free one of its main leaders, a Yemeni envoy kidnapped by the group said after his release.

Ali Askar, Yemen's ambassador to Algeria, said the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) made the offer to Algeria's military-backed authorities in a message handed to him and another freed diplomat, Oman's Ambassador Hilla Al Siyabi, when the kidnappers let them go Friday.

The letter says precisely that the armed groups are prepared to stop the campaign of assassinating foreigners if the leadership liberates Abdul Hake Layada.

Mr. Askar said in an interview with El Watan newspaper published Sunday.

"We have transmitted this message to the Algerian authorities," he added.

Mr. Layada, one of the founders of the GIA, was arrested in Morocco in June 1993 and turned over to Algerian police. He was sentenced to death 15 by one of Algeria's three special courts set up to try suspected Islamic militants.

Mr. Askar said his kidnappers belonged to the GIA, most radical of the armed Islamic groups trying to topple Algeria's military

backed, secular government.

It was the GIA who kidnapped three employees of the French consulate general in Algeria last October and held them for a week.

Algerian security forces said Friday they had "found" the diplomats and two other people kidnapped with them on July 15 in the Islamic stronghold of Khemis Al Kechna, east of Algiers.

But Mr. Askar said the kidnappers had released them voluntarily.

"They left us near the Ben Aknoun zoo (in Algiers) and loaned us a vehicle to go home," he told the paper.

The other two kidnapped people were their Moroccan chauffeur and Mousamad Qassem Al Thour, a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's politburo.

Mr. Askar said the kidnappers about 10 people, initially mistook them for police when they seized the four near the Hamiz dam at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, a region reputedly under control of armed fundamentalists.

The London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, which interviewed Mr. Askar by telephone, quoted him as saying that their abduction was mostly an accident and unplanned. The extremists were suspicious of seeing a strange car in their neighbourhood and stopped it.

The Iranian report said the foreign ministry "demanded punishment of those responsible for the tragic incident."

It said the Iraqi diplomat responded by promising to convey Iran's concern to Baghdad government.

Teheran Radio said the Foreign Ministry also protested Iraqi authorities' restrictions on bereaved family members attending Khoei's funeral.

Saudis helped Iraq develop nuclear arms

LONDON (AFP) — Saudi Arabia helped the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein to finance the development of nuclear weapons, Britain's Sunday Times reported.

Naming its source as Mohammad Abdullah Al Khilewi, a Saudi diplomat who has reportedly defected and sought asylum in the United States, the paper said Riyadh gave Baghdad financial aid worth \$5 billion under a secret agreement.

In return, the Iraqis agreed to share their nuclear technology with the Saudis. The paper said negotiations to that effect began in 1985, when Iraq was embroiled in a drawn-out war with Iran, and only stopped with the 1991 Gulf war after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The report added that the

Saudis had started up a programme as early as 1975 to build the atomic bomb, opening a secret research centre in 1975 in a military complex near Al Suleyman.

The paper said it has seen the minutes of secret meetings between military officials from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the desert in 1989, just a year before Iraq marched into Kuwait, proving Riyadh's financing of Baghdad's nuclear programme.

The Sunday Times says the documents show the Saudis provided Iraq with specialised equipment it could not obtain on its own.

Mr. Khilewi said last month he had written a letter on May 17 to Crown Prince Abdullah and other ranking Saudi officials to express his opposition to the regime, after unearthing secret docu-

ments showing hard evidence of serious human rights violations in Saudi Arabia.

The former diplomat, who is listed by the United Nations as first secretary to the Saudi U.N. mission, said the country's secret services had made threats on his and his family's lives after he sent the letter.

The Sunday Times said U.S. secret services warned Mr. Khilewi last Friday that attempts were under way to kidnap and repatriate him.

Mr. Khilewi further said he is in possession of some 13,000 documents showing the existence of a treaty

signed by the Saudi leadership in 1970 with Pakistan assuring Riyadh of Islamabad's protection if the Saudis were attacked by a nuclear power. Pakistan itself has the bomb.

Iran warns against Pakistan 'ethnic war'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri on Sunday strongly condemned an attack on Shi'ite Muslims travelling by bus in Pakistan and urged Islamabad to stop the "savagery."

Mr. Nateq Nuri warned against an "ethnic war" in Pakistan and called on the authorities to "fight against the religious extremists," in a speech to the Iranian parliament. He was referring to the Sipah-e-Sababa Pakistan (SSP), a pro-Saudi Sunni Muslim group based in Pakistan. "This terrorist group weakens the pillars of your government and could risk provoking an ethnic war in Pakistan," he said, addressing Pakistani leaders.

Tehran demands Baghdad explanation

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran has demanded an explanation from Iraq about the cause of an accident which killed the son of a revered Shiite Muslim leader in Iraq, Iranian state radio said Sunday.

The foreign ministry summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, Hekmat Abed Khozair Al Dulaimy and demanded an explanation concerning the death of Sayyed Mohammad Taghi Al Khoei in a road accident, the radio said.

Khoei, son of Ayatollah Abu Qassem Al Khoei, died with three others when their car was hit by a lorry late Thursday on the road linking the Shiite holy cities of Karbala and Najaf.

The Iranian report said the foreign ministry "demanded punishment of those responsible for the tragic incident."

It said the Iraqi diplomat responded by promising to convey Iran's concern to Baghdad government.

Teheran Radio said the Foreign Ministry also protested Iraqi authorities' restrictions on bereaved family members attending Khoei's funeral.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Americans reported killed in Aden

ADEN (AP) — Two American men Sunday were reported killed on the outskirts of this war-ravaged city when their vehicle hit a mine left over from a two-month civil war. They would be the first known war-related casualties among foreigners, thousands of whom were evacuated after north-south hostilities broke out on May 4. Military sources in this southern port city that bore the brunt of the victorious northern onslaught said the accident occurred Friday two kilometres outside the suburb of Dar Saad. The sources said the mine had been planted during the conflict by southern troops retreating into their besieged stronghold here, which fell on July 7. They gave no further details.

Kuwait scientist wants research published

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is excessively secretive about Gulf war damage to the environment and should publish studies on this topic in the interests of public health, a Kuwaiti scientist said in remarks published on Sunday. "Unfortunately, research results are not accessible to people living within Kuwait's borders," the English-language Arab Times quoted Yousef Al Sultan, assistant director general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), as saying. "The pollution issue ... is the classic example. Three years after the oil well fires and the formation of oil lakes in the desert, the institutions concerned have not told the people the complete story of the impact on their lives," Mr. Sultan said.

Israel says Hezbollah 'spy' kidnapped

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Lebanese man snatched by Israeli paratroopers was a pro-Iranian Hezbollah activist who took part in coordinated attacks on Israel, military sources said Sunday. Qassem Rihan was captured Friday night just north of the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army announced only that Mr. Rihan "assisted Hezbollah in attacks against Israel." The sources said he was observed and reported movements of the Israelis and their South Lebanon Army militia, but was considered only a minor operative.

Iran slams West over rebel rallies

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri blasted Western countries on Sunday for allowing an Iranian opposition group to hold demonstrations in their capitals. Mr. Nateq Nuri singled out France, Italy and Britain, but also criticised other Western countries for their "act of support" for the Mujahedeen, the main Iranian armed opposition group. "These so-called defenders of human rights turn a blind eye to the crimes perpetrated by the criminal terrorists and allow them to organise rallies and make speeches," he told parliament. Thousands of Mujahedeen followers marched through Western capitals including Paris Saturday denouncing the Iranian government and demanding a restoration of democracy in Iran.

Iran warns against Pakistan 'ethnic war'

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Yemen's friends cause concerns to West

SANA'A (R) — Yemen, strapped for cash and seeking aid to recover from its two month civil war, is being wooed by some countries anxious to increase their regional influence. Western diplomats say:

Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Iran have all sent high profile political or humanitarian teams to Sanaa to pledge their support to Yemen in the two weeks since northern Yemeni forces crushed a southern attempt at secession.

"There is a lot of Western concern about some of these visits. They are clearly here as a political gesture," one diplomat said.

An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Minister Hussein Sheikholeslam met Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh this week and Yemen Television reported a plane load of 40 tonnes of medical supplies arrived in Sanaa on Friday.

"We think we can offer long-term help here," said Parviz Vazirian, an Iranian Health Ministry official heading a team of doctors visiting Yemen.

"Last year we set up a clinic in Sanaa. We are going to expand it into a hospital and set up immunisation programmes. There could be other projects," he said.

Other doctors said their visit was concentrating on long term help to northern Yemen during the war when fighting interrupted its supplies.

Other medical delegations have been sent from Iraq and Libya, and the speaker of Sana'a's parliament arrived in Sanaa for talks with Mr. Saleh just days after the civil war ended.

Yemen's immediate Gulf neighbours criticised the crushing by force of the self-declared southern breakaway state, Sanaa in turn accused rich Gulf Arab states of funding the secessionists.

In the wake of victory by government forces, Yemen announced that improving ties with Gulf countries was a top priority.

The Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates have sent delegations to Sanaa this week, but there has been no public reaction from Saudi Arabia, where some of the southern leaders are still taking refuge.

"Unless they change their policy towards Yemen, the Saudis could find themselves surrounded by hostile states — Iraq to the north, Yemen to the south and Sudan to the west," one diplomat said.

"In the long term, it might be better for them to patch up their differences with Sanaa."

The Oman News Agency reported the arrival in Muscat of Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani on Saturday and said he would meet Oman's Sultan Qaboos during his visit, expected to last a few days.

"Yemen is keen to strengthen ties between the two countries and develop them for the better," Yemen Radio quoted Mr. Abdul Ghani as saying before he left Sanaa.

Arafat is home to face mammoth responsibility for people

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

When Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza last month for the first time most Palestinians in the occupied territories saw no more of him than the tip of his checkered black and white kufiyyeh. After 27 years of exile Mr. Arafat the revolutionary, the symbol, had finally come home.

With a hoarse voice and tempered words, the man, who for decades had promoted the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and who had worked to evict the Zionists from Palestine, came back and spoke of neither a return of all Palestinians nor an eviction of the Zionists. While most Palestinians in the world over have viewed him as their leader for better or worse, his return highlighted the never-ending Palestinian quest for leadership.

After three decades of

lebanon for 10 years. But many Palestinians inside the occupied territories and outside believe otherwise.

Mr. Arafat, they say, will have to earn his leadership title in full or lose it altogether. Respected Palestinian leader from Gaza Haidar Abdul Shafi spoke of him, during a seminar held in Amman last month, simply as Yasser Arafat. In an audience of several hundred only one person referred to Arafat as president.

The title that Mr. Arafat will carry, despite or in spite of the Israeli-PLO agreement or the respects accorded to him by foreign heads of state will ultimately be that he is here — we do not want another Arab leader who just declares himself the chief of his Indians," adds Abu Eid.

Legislative elections, say Palestinians in the occupied territories, will decide both their fate and that of Mr. Arafat.

"To us, he is al raiz, (the president) because we consider our nation to be a state —

in Palestine," explained advisor to the Palestinian negotiating committee Huda Imam, who works at the Jerusalem-based Orient House. "He is our leader and the leader of a state is a president or prime minister and thus he is our president," she explained.

"He will be president when we elect him to that post," counters Nasser Abu Eid, a Gazan mechanic, who spent seven years in Israeli jails for resisting occupation. "He is our leader but he must earn his credentials now that he is here — we do not want another Arab leader who just declares himself the chief of his Indians," adds Abu Eid.

Legislative elections, say Palestinians in the occupied territories, will decide both their fate and that of Mr. Arafat as president.

"Elections are about more than just a title or form," says Hassan Barghouti, a union activist from Ramallah.

Rwanda refugees start going home, many die in camps

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Rwandan refugees abandoned the hell camps of eastern Zaire in growing numbers on Sunday but of those who stayed, up to 1,500 were dying each day from disease or exhaustion, aid workers and Rwandan officials said.

U.S. military planes were set to make their first air-drops of food into the camps. The three plane loads will be just a drop in a morass of thirst, filth, hunger and disease.

"There are many people on the road. Yesterday more than 10,000 came across," Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Lieutenant Peter Karage told Reuters at the frontier.

On the Zairean side, hundreds of miserable, soiled Hutu refugees were slumped along the road leading up to the border post, closed by Zairean soldiers since Thursday.

The soldiers were still collecting up the tonnes of rifles, bullets, machetes and grenades abandoned by former Rwandan troops when they fled RPF forces 11 days ago along with about a million civilians.

Lt. Karage said most of the refugees, who have been urged by both the new RPF-led government and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to return, were crossing through the bush.

The UNHCR could not confirm the numbers but for several days aid officials said they had noticed trying to return.

The mainly Tutsi RPF won power in Kigali after a three-month offensive but govern-

ment soldiers and Hutu militiamen massacred an estimated 500,000 people, mostly Tutsi and Hutu government opponents in that time.

At least 2.7 million refugees — more than a third of the population — fled across Rwanda's borders, spurred by broadcasts from the defected government that said the RPF would launch a campaign of revenge killings.

The UNHCR has told the refugees it is safe to return. No massacres have been reported since the ousted regime fled into Zaire and the new RPF government set up last week has also urged the refugees to come home.

Hutu leaders held responsible for the genocide are now ensconced in Goma tourist hotels after slipping through a French military "safe haven".

"There's going to be a real struggle for the hearts and minds of these people between the old government and the new one," said UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson.

Zaire's Deputy Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo was due to visit the frontier post and aid officials said this could signal a decision to open the border again.

About 45,000 displaced Rwandans have flooded across from the French safe haven in southwest Rwanda back to their homes, French Lieutenant-Colonel Didier Boileau told reporters.

RPF officer Karage said his forces were keeping people out of the border town of Gisenyi until they burned bodies in the streets to help avoid bringing a cholera plague home.



An armed Zairean soldier prevents Rwandan refugees from crossing the border with Rwanda in Goma July 23. The French soldiers pledged to clean-up the

area. (AFP photo)

Many of the refugees, starved and exhausted after their stay in the camps and the walk to get to Zaire, are clearly too weak to make the journey home now.

"We're estimating, and this is very rough, that 1,200 to 1,500 are dying a day," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Most are dying of cholera, and workers from Médecins Sans Frontières (doctors without borders) said the epidemic could bring down 20,000 people with the disease.

"The epidemic is worsening and is far, far out of our

control," MSF Dr. Georges Dallemande said.

Corpses, wrapped in reed mats bundles or sprawled on the roadside, lay scattered all the way down to the shores of Lake Kivu which is still the source of most refugees' water.

Crowds of people scooped water into jerry cans, washed and swam in the lake. Many had walked 30 km from the black volcanic rock plains where they have been moved by the Zaireans and aid organizations.

The refugees need 30 million litres of drinking water a

day but Mr. Wilkinson said the aid groups were currently able to purify just 150,000 litres.

U.S. Army Major Guy Shields said two C-141 transport planes would land at Goma Airport on Sunday, bringing in the first U.S. water purification gear and forklift trucks to unload cargo.

An airdrop of an initial 1,293 tonnes of U.S.-donated rice and some cooking oil will also begin, Maj. Shields said.

Three C-141s will drop food supplies — possibly U.S. combat rations — at an airstrip called Katale just

north of Goma.

If refugees strayed onto the airstrip, the drop would have to be aborted, Maj. Shields said.

Some of the U.N.'s requests — such as an urgent drilling of 60,000 latrines through volcanic rock — have gone unanswered.

"On sanitation there's been absolutely no response at all. We appeal to governments to come up with an offer," Maj. Wilkinson said.

"The only thing working efficiently now is the burial of the dead."

U.S. combat rations — at an airstrip called Katale just

At least 40 dead in Indian violence

GUWAHATI, India (R) — At least 40 people were killed when tribal militants attacked a relief camp in India's northeastern Assam state on Sunday, residents said.

With Sunday's killings more than 60 people have died in the ethnic violence this week.

The Assam government on Saturday said 21 people were killed in ethnic clashes in Barpeta district of the state on July 19 and 20. It said the dead included 10 shot by police.

In a renewed spurt of violence early on Sunday armed Bodoland militants opened fire at sleeping inmates at Bansbari relief camp, some 160 kms east of the state capital Guwahati.

Residents said some 40 people were killed and over 100 injured in Sunday's clash as the militants fired

indiscriminately after surrounding the camp. The police gave no figure for the number of casualties in the incident.

The wounded were brought to the Guwahati Medical College Hospital in trucks and other vehicles. No other details were immediately available.

A round-the-clock curfew imposed on Friday to contain the violence remained in force on Sunday. Over 5,000 people fled their villages for relief camps after armed attacks and arson.

There has long been tension between Bangladeshi immigrants and Bodoland tribesmen, many of whom support a tribal insurgency aimed at winning a separate state within India.

Bodoland militants frequently attack recent immigrants,

claiming they are taking their tribal land. Last October, 60 Muslims were killed and 30,000 made homeless.

But police said the immigrant community in Barpeta arrived many years ago and held legitimate title to their lands.

One senior official said tension between the Muslims and Bodoland tribesmen started rising in Barpeta nine days ago when a police party, returning from investigating the reported murders of two Muslims, was ambushed, apparently by Bodoland militants.

Seven policemen were killed in the incident.

Police said the recent violence appeared to have been triggered by Muslims. They said 15 villages, 10 of them belonging to Muslims and five to Bodoland tribesmen, were burned.



Japanese Astronaut Chiaki Mukai (right) describes her first Shuttle flight July 23 at Kennedy Space Centre as Commander Robert Cabana listens. The shuttle's

longest space flight ended with the safe return of its crew of seven humans and thousands of small animals when the shuttle landed on KSC's runway 33 (AFP)

Columbia home after record orbiting

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA hustled thousands of little animals off Columbia on Saturday after the shuttle's smooth sunrise landing concluded America's longest space flight in more than 20 years.

It was the end of the line for the two surviving adult news — dissections were planned by researchers eager to see the anatomical effects of 15 days of weightlessness.

A longer, brighter future awaits the four guppy-like Japanese medaka fish. They are headed back to Japan in a few weeks to live out their lives and mate to their hearts' content, under scientific scrutiny, as biologists look for any lingering effects of space flight.

A one-day landing delay caused by offshore storms Friday gave Columbia and its crew of seven the U.S. space shuttle endurance record — 14 days and nearly 18 hours for a trip of 9.82 million kilometres.

The previous record was 14 days, 13 minutes, set by another Columbia crew last

fall.

Japanese astronaut Chiaki Mukai became the world's female space-endurance champion. The all-time records of 84 days on NASA's Skylab in 1973-74 and 366 days on Russia's Mir space station in 1987-88 are all held by men. Ms. Mukai, a little weak and wobbly from 15 days of weightlessness, described the trip as "a wonderful memory." The heart surgeon and first Japanese woman in space was applauded by dozens of Japanese when she walked into a press conference room and again when she left.

"Definitely, this is my best day," Ms. Mukai said, smiling.

"Excellent, excellent job."

mission control told Commander Robert Cabana and his crew after Columbia's wheels came to a stop. "Your record of 15 days on orbit for the shuttle has brought us closer to the next giant leap for mankind, when we live permanently in space aboard the international space station."

Besides biological experi-

ments on the news, medaka, six goldfish, 126 jellyfish, 11,200 sea urchins, 180 toad eggs, 500 flies and millions of cells, the mission featured metal melting, radiation monitoring, fluid analysis, plant growth and medical tests on the astronauts themselves.

Scientists want to see how the animals develop and behave in weightlessness so they can better understand how humans might adapt to much longer stays in space, such as on a trip to Mars.

Two of the four adult news carried by Columbia died during the mission. But researchers awaited their arrival with as much anticipation as the live ones, maybe even more, to see what they could learn from their deaths.

More than 200 scientists from around the world participated in the mission. All but one of the 82 experiments were accomplished.

The U.S. space agency's next shuttle mission, an earth-monitoring flight by Endeavour, is scheduled for next month.

The loyalists, for their part, have issued a statement saying they would welcome an IRA ceasefire "positively."

Neo-Nazi skinheads rampage in Buchenwald death camp

ERFURT, Germany (R) — Neo-Nazi skinheads rampaged through the Buchenwald World War II death camp in East Germany, throwing stones at buildings and threatening to burn a supervisor to death, police said on Sunday.

The rampage late on Saturday night came amid a spate of rightist violence that swept the eastern part of the country over the weekend.

Two of the 22 rightists, who shouted "siegen heil" and gave the stiff-arm Hitler salute as they charged through the former Nazi concentration camp in which 56,000 Jews were murdered during World War II, were initially detained by police.

One was held and the other released. The rest of the neo-Nazi group were allowed to go home pending police investigations, a spokesman said.

German officials recently announced plans to remodel the Buchenwald Museum to reflect post-war Soviet abuses and the 10,000 people who died there after the Nazis were defeated.

About 20,000 of the concentration camp's inmates died making the V2 rocket, Hitler's "wonder weapon," in the Dora underground tunnel network, northwest of Buchenwald.

In Magdeburg, also in East Germany, police detained seven rightist youths on Saturday for singing banned Nazi songs.

Residents had complained after a gang chanting Nazi slogans and singing Nazi songs paraded through the streets.

Meanwhile in Ruhlsdorf near the eastern city of Eberswalde, police were investigating a group of 10 to 15 youths on suspicion of distributing banned Nazi propaganda, a spokesman said on Saturday.

Three Germans were jailed on Friday for up to 3½ years for their role in riots in Magdeburg in May when far-right extremists smashed up a Turkish-owned cafe and hunted down foreigners in one of the worst outbreaks of neo-Nazi violence that has haunted Germany since unification in 1990.

The previous record was 14 days, 13 minutes, set by another Columbia crew last

Tolkien- mania arrives in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — It might seem that Russia has had enough battles and plenty of heroes, villains and fools.

But Russian fans of English fantasy author J.R.R. Tolkien say they're just getting going. They gather by the dozens each week at twilight in a wooded park called Neskuchny Sad, or pleasure gardens, overlooking the Moscow River.

"We have no sources, few books. We're just starting out, like it probably was in America 20 or 30 years ago," said Konstantin Asmolov, a regular at the gatherings. "We need dungeons and

dragons humanitarian aid," he said, lamenting that the Tolkien-style fantasy game has yet to appear in Russia.

Many of the Tolkien devotees wear capes and daggers, and a handful in their teens and 20s lunge at each other with homemade swords and spears, slipping and sliding in the mud.

Other fans stand around the columns of an 18-century house comparing identities and insights into "The Hobbit," "The Lord of the Rings" and other Tolkien books.

Only occasionally does the

real world intrude — the

faroaway sound of car horns on Lenin Prospect.

Tolkien's imaginary universe, Middle Earth, inspires such dress-up games in many places, but he is a relatively recent obsession for Russians. The lord of the rings trilogy, published in the West in 1954-55, wasn't published in Russia until 1982.

There are a few groups of "Tolkienists" in Moscow, centred on Moscow State University. Many prefer to be called "Tolkienites," which carries a hint of craziness.

The mostly young, long-haired, bookish group at Neskuchny Sad offers some

theories about why this brand of mythology-based fantasy has struck a chord.

"A lot of people say it's catching on here because life is so hard and people need to escape to a prettier life," said Andrei Kachanov, a lanky 16-year-old. "But for me it's just an interesting and wild hobby."

Asmolov said Russia is going through another time of troubles, a period of anarchy, famine and foreign invasion in the early 17th century.

"In times of troubles, a lot of charlatans appear and there's a desire for magic," he said.

The crowd of dreamers in

Adams demands peace, Sinn Fein begins debate

LETTERKENNY, Ireland (AFP) — Sinn Fein demands a peaceful solution to the Northern Ireland conflict, the movement's leader Sunday told a special congress here to debate a response to the Anglo-Irish Declaration on the province's future.

In his inaugural address to the long-awaited congress, Gerry Adams, the president of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, asserted: "Republicans want peace. We demand peace."

After seven months of preparation, the party promised a "definitive" answer to the key offer contained in the December Declaration: to include Sinn Fein in talks on the future of Ulster if the IRA honours a three-month ceasefire and renounces violence.

An answer is not expected before late Sunday evening.

Speaking to around 800 party delegates in a hotel at this tourist town in the western Irish county of Donegal, Mr. Adams added: "By the end of today, I am confident that our collective efforts will have significantly contributed to the peace process."

As the delegates of the Catholic Republican Party, which wants the British province to join Ireland in the south, convened, a strong police presence deployed outside the town just a few kilometres from the northern Irish border amid fears of an attack by pro-British Protestant paramilitaries.

On Saturday, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds urged Sinn Fein to "seize an historic opportunity for peace" by approving the declaration and ending the sectarian conflict, which has killed more than 3,200 and wounded 37,000 since the British Army stepped in 25 years ago.

But although Mr. Adams insisted Saturday that "we are in the final phase of the conflict," he has tried to stop expectations getting too high, saying Thursday he had not heard of any preparations for an IRA ceasefire.

Republicans have also indicated that although recent Anglo-Irish noises on Ulster they are not enough for Sinn Fein to convince the IRA to stop its campaign.

Instead, they want to see London and Dublin adopt a formula which would put flesh on the declaration's principle of "national self-determination of the Irish people."

They also want assurances that the Government of Ireland Act partitioning the country, passed in 1920, will be at the centre of any future talks.

But

Two climbers
killed
in avalanche

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. (AP) —

Two climbers were swept into a crevasse and killed. The four were climbing Eliot glacier, about 2,745 metres on the mountain's north side when the avalanche occurred. Rescuers reached them about four hours later, and airlifted the two killed, hospital spokesman Marlys Evans said. One of the survivors appeared to be in critical condition, the other serious. "They were attempting to glissade, basically sliding away too high," witness Andy Mark told KPTV in Portland. "That's 45 degrees up their butts, and started to slide, and with the same conditions, they just out of control, tried to self-correct, and uh, it didn't work. They hit the rock band, then wheeled over it, hit the snow right above the crevasse, stopped for a couple of seconds, then the avalanche had them created and their momentum swept most of them into the crevasse." Mount Hood rises to a elevation of 3,427 metres. In 1986, seven students and two teachers died after they were caught in a blizzard on the mountain. Two others walked through the storm to seek help, and two teenagers survived the three-day ordeal in a hastily dug snow cave.

Flood kills seven
in northern
Vietnam

HANOI (AP) — A flood swept through a village in northern Vietnam, leaving seven people dead or missing, Vietnam News Agency reported Sunday. The flood in the border province of Lang Son also wiped out 30 houses and injured 24 people in Muong Lay village early Saturday, the report said. Much of northern Vietnam was hit by heavy rains last week that threatened thousands of hectares of rice fields. Floods in the south of the country this month wiped out around 20,000 hectares of crops and again threatened the rice harvest.

dead, 7 missing
in Hong Kong
landslides

HONG KONG (AP) — Seven tourists were forced to abandon their search Sunday for seven people missing after a landslide on a Hong Kong housing estate which has already claimed three victims. The landslide, the result of some of the heaviest rain in Hong Kong this century, occurred in Kennedy Town on Hong Kong Island on Saturday. Hong Kong's deputy governor, Wong Chin, visiting the disaster site Sunday, said: "I think, unfortunately, the chances of finding anybody still alive, buried under the mud, is probably very, very small, and it's not an attempt to continue the search going." Four public housing blocks standing on the steep slope have been evacuated, with 2,000 residents moving to emergency shelters. Heavy rain since Friday has wreaked havoc in Hong Kong, closing roads and forcing banks and businesses to shut. Flight and port have been delayed or cancelled. The torrential rain which has also caused widespread flooding and is expected to persist over the next couple of days. Over 100 mm of rain fell in one four-hour period early Sunday.

Elephant runs
mok at Danish
circus

COPENHAGEN (R) — An elephant which ran amok at a circus, injuring one spectator and trapping a small town was brought to heel by a veterinary surgeon. The 3.5-tonne elephant attacked its trainer in the ring of a circus at Frederiksberg in central Denmark Friday night and trampled members of the audience, one of whom, Bernevejsen, said: "After the elephant — called Sam — seized a man with its trunk and lifted him into the air before rampaging through the harbour area of Frederiksberg. The elephant eventually turned its own accord in its three-metre

World News

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NEW IN BRIEF

Quebec premier picks date for elections

MONTREAL (AP) — Quebec provincial Premier Daniel Johnson has picked a date for elections expected to bring the separatist opposition Parti Quebecois to power, officials with his ruling Liberal Party said Saturday. But there was no immediate announcement of the date as many observers had expected. Surveys have shown Johnson's Liberal Party is likely to be beaten by the Parti Quebecois, led by Jacques Parizeau. Mr. Parizeau has pledged that if he takes the helm of provincial government, he will call a referendum on whether this predominantly French-speaking province should break away from Canada to become a sovereign state. Liberal Party of Quebec President Jacques Lamoreux said Johnson met with the party leadership here for the last time before launching the election campaign. Hours later, Mr. Johnson's office released a statement saying he would give a press conference Sunday at the national assembly in the provincial capital, Quebec City. Sources here and in Quebec City said Johnson will use the occasion to announce that elections will be held Sept. 12. Meanwhile, the Parti Quebecois kicked off its campaign at a Quebec City hotel rally that drew about 1,000 supporters. "We are ready," Mr. Parizeau told the crowd. "Mr. Johnson is scared." The Liberal Party, which has governed the province since 1985, currently has 78 of the assembly's 125 seats. The Parti Quebecois has 33.

Indonesia to decide on Al Arqam group

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia will decide this week whether to ban a controversial Islamic group whose activities have been outlawed in neighbouring Malaysia. Attorney General Singgih was quoted on Sunday as saying, Antara news agency quoted Mr. Singgih as saying the Al Arqam group's teachings would be evaluated. "If the group is banned, all its activities will become illegal." Some religious leaders want the Malaysia-based Al Arqam banned because of its teachings. Al Arqam members believe in the second coming of a holy man to lead Muslims to a new era in Islam.

Iranian sets fire to Japan embassy gate

TEHRAN (R) — A disgruntled Iranian poured paraffin outside the gate of the Japanese embassy in Tehran on Sunday, setting it on fire and causing slight damage, embassy sources said. They said the man, apparently upset because embassy officials would not handle his visa application as promptly as he wished earlier in the day, poured several litres of paraffin just outside the embassy gate and put a match to it. He then calmly left the neighbourhood in a taxi. The sources said the fire damaged the gate but the embassy would reopen to the public normally on Monday.

French air controllers strike

PARIS (AP) — Striking French air controllers disrupted vacations around Western Europe on Saturday, stranding travellers for hours in airports on one of the busiest days of the year. The strike by controllers at the Aix-en-Provence regional centre in southeastern France, a flyover point for many sunny destinations, grounded passengers heading to or from Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Italy. French Civil Aviation authorities expected the problems to worsen Sunday afternoon, when airports are normally choc full of people trying to get home for the new week. But Saturday's chaos was bad enough. Only 250 of 1,200 flights normally handled at southeastern France's commercial airports were allowed to land or take off. Some charter flights were detoured from Marseille's airport to Paris, Toulouse or Genoa, Italy and their passengers taken to the Mediterranean port city by bus. More than 3,000 holidaymakers suffered delays at Ringway airport in Manchester, northern England, some for as long as five hours. Officials expected delays to grow. It was the first peak season weekend at the Manchester Airport, with 900 flights scheduled in and out — 100 of them to the Balearic islands off the Spanish coast, part of the strike-affected zone. Flights to and from Germany over southeastern France were on, average one hour behind schedule, for Switzerland two hours behind, and for Spain three hours, French Civil Aviation authorities said. The authorities reported that only half the international flights normally scheduled to fly over the zone could be guaranteed for the duration of the three-day strike, which ends at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) Sunday. Domestically, half the flights to and from the southeast — Nice, Marseille, Toulon, Nimes, Avignon, Lyon, Corsica — were scrubbed. For the rest, airlines were providing bigger planes able to handle perhaps 60 per cent of all scheduled passengers. The air traffic controllers are demanding a bigger work force and better benefits. Talks with civil air authorities Friday ended without agreement. Summer air strikes are a tradition in France; the irritation caused French and foreign holidaymakers to pressure the government to settle.

Filipino crewmen safe after ship capsized

MIAMI (R) — Sixteen Filipino crewmen were rescued by a passing vessel after their freighter capsized south of Cuba in the Caribbean Sea Saturday, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The crewmen were picked up by another freighter, the container ship Cartiye Ace, from a motorised lifeboat about 80 km from the wreck site late Saturday, Petty Officer Alex Worden said. "Everybody's fine and they're being taken to Panama," Ms. Worden said. The Coast Guard received an emergency signal from the 122-metre ship Palawan Island about 5 a.m. EDT (0900 GMT) and followed the signal to the wreck site, about 402 kms south of Cuba. There was no indication what caused the freighter to capsize, Mr. Worden said. The ship had sailed from Mobile, Alabama, for the Caribbean Island of Aruba carrying 500 tonnes of wood, and began to take on water and then capsized amid 1.5 to three metre seas. "There was wood and debris all over," Mr. Worden said. According to a report from London from the Lloyd's Casualty Reporting Service, the 4,261-tonne vessel was built in 1980 and managed by the Pacific Caribbean Shipping Inc of San Francisco.

Kennedys mark matriarch's 104 birthday

HYANNIS PORT, Mass. (AP) — Surrounded by family, flowers and photographs, Rose Kennedy marked her 104th birthday with a quiet gathering Saturday in her white clapboard house by the sea. Mrs. Kennedy's birthday was Friday, but the family waited until Saturday to gather. Among those who had planned to attend were dozens of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including Mrs. Kennedy's only surviving son, Edward M. Kennedy, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts. "The family is just going to have a private party for her," spokeswoman Melody Miller said. "At her advanced age, she just prefers her privacy." The mother of a president and two U.S. senators, Mrs. Kennedy has used a wheelchair to get around since suffering a stroke in 1984. She was briefly wheeled onto her porch Saturday afternoon. Party plans called for a cake decorated with roses, and a sing-along — complete with piano player — in the house's main living room, Ms. Miller said. Atop the piano rest pictures of important events in Mrs. Kennedy's life, as well as wedding portraits of her late daughter-in-law, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Also pictured are her three sons: President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, both assassinated, and Joe Jr., a pilot killed during World War II.



Towers of a Hong Kong island housing estate risk collapse after a mudslide due to ongoing torrential rains weakened their foundations. The mudslide which occurred July 23, causing three to die, prompted the evacuation of some 2000 families from the endangered housing estate (AFP photo)

Experts start analysing comet impact images

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the most dramatic bombardment of Jupiter over, astronomers are starting intense study of thousands of images showing explosions, fireballs and black plumes of smoke-like debris in the cloud tops of the giant planet. Scientists at a news conference Saturday said that there are photos from virtually every large observatory in the world taken during the 21-punch pounding of Jupiter by comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. "It's going to take quite a while before we can put it all together," said Heidi Hammel, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher working with Hubble space telescope images.

Even amateurs are playing an important role, taking pictures impossible for big telescopes because Jupiter is moving closer to the sun. Scientists already are receiving pictures taken from backyard telescopes.

David Levy, co-discoverer of the comet, urged amateurs to continue their work and to share observations with the professionals.

The impact sites are easier to see in smaller telescopes," he said.

At least 18 impact sites have been identified across the southern face of the planet, but traces of the hits are beginning to merge and become more difficult to sort out, said Lucy McFadden, a University of Maryland astronomer.

"Amateur observers can help us keep track of what impact site is where," she said.

The experts also said that though the major, known fragments of the comet have already hit, there still may be more Jupiter-bashing.

In the wake of the comet, a wispy cloud of debris is now cascading into the planet.

The trailing wing is still coming in and it will be com-

Shanghai's raw prawns — a deadly delight

SHANGHAI (R) — So strong is Shanghai's fetish for booze-bathed "drunken prawns" and other raw seafood that diners are ignoring a citywide ban on the dishes and the risk of a possibly fatal illness.

The official Youth Post said the public were ignoring the ban, imposed to head off a repeat of the "hairy clam" epidemic of the late 1980s when tens of thousands of residents contracted hepatitis from the local shellfish and many died.

"This newspaper advises the people of Shanghai — stop eating raw seafood," the post warned in a banner headline.

Many of the "drunken prawns", "drunken crabs", "drunken clams" and other uncooked seafoods that Shanghai people so love to eat carry disease-causing bacteria," it said.

"Some of the diseases they spread are life-threatening."

Bosnian fighters keep up pressure

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's fighters kept up pressure on key battlefronts on Sunday as the international community pondered its response to the Serbs' effective rejection of the latest peace plan to end 27 months of war.

The United Nations said three people were killed in a Serb artillery attack on the Serb-held town of Brcko to the north. U.N. military spokesman Commander Eric Chaperon said.

Shelling was reported from the northwestern enclave of Bihać, where Bosnian government troops are fighting Muslim rebels on one front and the Serbs on another.

More than 500 artillery impacts were recorded overnight.

"The area remained active," Mr. Chaperon said.

The fighting ushered in a week during which the five-nation "contact group" which drew up the current peace plan for Bosnia is considering how to respond following the Serbs' refusal to give a clear "yes" to the proposal.

The Muslim-Croat alliance has grudgingly approved the plan, which gives them 51 per cent of Bosnia and the rest to the Serbs, who now hold more than 70 per cent.

Options to be considered by the contact group include tightening sanctions on Serbia, stepping up the military pressure on Bosnian Serbs and removing the arms embargo which hasbamboozled the Muslim-led Bosnian army.

Foreign ministers of the contact group — the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany — are scheduled to meet next Saturday, July 30, to consider the

Serbs' call for further negotiations on the peace plan.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the Serbs would be punished if they failed to accept the plan by that date.

"The response from the Bosnian Serbs is disappointing. Their additional demands are delaying a peace settlement," Mr. Kinkel said in the southern city of Mostar, which was handed over to European Union control on Saturday.

"If the attitude of the Bosnian Serbs hasn't changed by July 30 their answer will have to be taken as a 'no,' with all the consequences this entails. I call on them again to accept this plan. It is not a chance they should cast away."

Western powers have characterised the Serbs' reaction as a rejection of the peace plan while Russia, traditional friend of the Serbs, has been

their response in a more positive light.

U.S. envoy Charles Redman said Western powers would patch up their differences with Russia in the days before the foreign ministers' meeting.

"I think we can work things out (with the Russians). There is no concern that there will not be a contact group agreement, there will be an escalating series of measures," he said.

Mr. Redman, also speaking in Mostar, indicated that the Bosnian Serbs' demands for further talks amounted to a stalling tactic because they were raising issues already addressed by international mediators.

The EU took charge of Mostar on Saturday for an ambitious two-year project to reconstruct the divided city, where Croat militia laid siege to the Muslim east side of town.



Army troops patrol the streets on July 23 as tensions grew in the city after six people were killed and 28 injured when unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets and lobbed an explosive on a bus. Dozens of people

Violence in Pakistan leaves 1 dead, 13 injured

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) —

Gunmen attacked two Shiite mosques Sunday, killing a volunteer ambulance driver and injuring 13 others, including six children studying the Koran, Edhi Welfare Trust, the operators of Pakistan's largest emergency services organisation.

Police in the southern port city of Karachi said they feared the attacks, following another deadly shooting of Shiite Muslims on Saturday, marked an escalation of sectarian violence.

Six people were killed Saturday when gunmen fired on a bus filled with Shiite worshippers returning home from a mosque.

Police in the southern port city of Karachi said they feared the attacks, following another deadly shooting of Shiite Muslims on Saturday, marked an escalation of sectarian violence.

Army and intelligence sources believe Pakistan's hostile neighbour, India, is behind the sectarian violence.

Seven people were injured in that attack.

"They are firing at our ambulances. No one seems to be able to guarantee our safety," said Mr. Kazmi.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, and police have refused to speculate.

Shiite groups have blamed the attacks on their Sunni rivals.

Pakistan's majority Sunni Muslims and the minority,

Shiite Muslims generally coexist peacefully in Pakistan, but in recent years dozens of small, militant religious groups have sprung up, and they often clash.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has accused her rightist opposition of encouraging sectarian violence, a charge they deny.

Army and intelligence sources believe Pakistan's hostile neighbour, India, is behind the sectarian violence.

Pakistan and India routinely accuse each other of masterminding terrorist acts.

The unfriendly neighbours have fought three wars since the subcontinent gained its independence from Britain in 1947.

Officials said thousands of police and heavily armed soldiers are patrolling Karachi's troubled areas, particularly eastern and central parts of the city, to prevent more violence.

French tuna boat heads home

RENNES, France (AP) —

A French navy minesweeper Saturday began towing home a French tuna boat at the centre of an acrimonious dispute between France and Spain. The navy vessel took delivery of the trawler La Gabrielle, in the Bay of Biscay off the southwest coast of France from a Spanish tugboat, the French maritime safety agency CROSSA said. The boat is due to arrive at its home port on the island of Yeu Sunday. Spanish fishermen seized it July 16 in a high-seas battle, charging that it was using nets exceeding

the maximum length allowed under European Union regulations. The Spanish evicted the crew and took the boat back to northwest Spain Tuesday. The boat was surrendered to Spanish authorities Wednesday following intervention by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. It had been due to be handed over to the French navy Thursday but sprang a leak while under tow from the Spanish navy and had to return to port. As it was being towed home, the Gabrielle carried a rotting cargo of fish because Spanish port workers had refused to unload it, in solidarity with Spanish fishermen. In what Spanish newspapers called tit-for-tat reprisal, a Spanish boat was seized by the French navy Wednesday over an allegedly illegal catch. French authorities said an inspection of its hold revealed a cargo of undersized fish hidden in secret compartments. A French court Thursday ordered the captain of the Spanish boat to pay \$50,000 francs (\$100,000) in fines and costs. The boat's owner said he would appeal.

Cuba denies purposely ramming tugboat

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government Saturday

denied purposely ramming a tugboat packed with some 70 Cubans trying to flee the communist island for Florida on July 13. About 40 people were believed drowned when the boat was deliberately rammed and sunk, survivors told reporters.

Granma, the mouthpiece of the Cuban Communist Party, said that the crew of the three tugboats which tried to stop the thieves, Granma said. The fleeing Cubans were accused of stealing the tugboat they tried to pilot to the United States. Granma also quoted survivors who tended to back the official version that the tugboat, built in 1879, was unseaworthy. It reported that an inquiry had determined that 63 people had boarded the boat, not 70 as some survivors claimed. One survi-

vor was quoted as saying: "We made a mistake, that boat would have sunk 40 or 50 miles out in any case."

Cuba's Roman Catholic church harshly criticised the "violence."

The archbishop of Havana, Monsignor Jaime Ortega, said in a statement to "all Catholics and all Cubans" that the boat had not gone down by chance, adding that it was hard to fathom the harsh

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Peace dividends

JULY 25, 1994, will hopefully usher in a new era for the Middle East that promises peace and prosperity for all its peoples. What His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will accomplish today in Washington is bound to influence the pace of progress on the other tracks of the peace process and to leave its marks on the region for a long time to come. While some would like to see the effort fail, many people in this region want it to succeed and bear fruit. And while the former would not spare any effort or means in their reach to torpedo peace, those who champion it have to put in even greater efforts to make peace happen, hold and progress.

The opponents of peace on both sides of the divide, Arab-Israeli or Muslim-Jew, will have no need to coordinate their efforts, since their aim is one to bring to a halt the current peace negotiations. The proponents of peace, meanwhile, need more than express their willingness to make peace. They need to forge ahead and to dismantle the many hurdles that were erected during decades of hostility. While the direct participants, the Arabs and Israelis, carry the negotiations further and further ahead, the other partners, the U.S., the Europeans and the world community at large ought to use their political clout and financial muscle to consolidate the process.

The experience of the Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule area with the international donors is a reminder of the importance of changing people's lot on the ground. The incident last week at the crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, that resulted in the death and injury of many, is testimony to the desperation of people, who for years have been yearning for peace and peace dividends.

The U.S., the European Union and Japan have a big stake in peace. It serves both their strategic and commercial interests. The conflicts in Algeria and other parts in the Arab and Muslim World are not about religion, like many might want us to believe, they are about disparity.

Peace will only hold if nurtured and people will only opt for it if it serves their own interests and improve their future prospects.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States, Al Ra'i daily Sunday said that the visit is a clear sign of Jordan's pursuit of efforts to attain a lasting peace in the Middle East. On Tuesday, the King is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress in Washington and he is expected to win lawmakers' support for his drive to attain security and stability for the countries of this region, following his success in winning the endorsement of his efforts by the U.S. administration, said the daily. President Bill Clinton is to be commended not only for supporting King Hussein's efforts but also for giving him the chance to address Congress where U.S. policy is formulated, the paper continued. As for the tripartite summit at the White House, the paper said it is a clear sign that Jordan is sincere in its efforts towards achieving peace that would guarantee a better future for the coming generations. Meeting the requirements of development in this region is a vital element for attaining a lasting and just peace and, said the paper, it remains to be seen if the U.S. Congress will do its part in this process and come to the aid of Jordan and so enhance the growing relations between Jordan and the United States.

HAMADEH FARAJEHN, a columnist in Al Dustour, said economic investments in the self-rule areas of Palestine are more beneficial for the Palestinian cause and people than all the statements of political parties put together. Citing a decision by Senator Kamal Al Shaer and his company to invest hundreds of millions in infrastructure projects in Palestinian land, the writer said that economic projects can best enable the Palestinian people to remain in their land and not to their homes and lands. Citing another example, the writer said that Palestinian businessman Sabeek Al Masri has now pledged to cover the cost of running the affairs of the Higher Palestine Educational Council. The writer said that this move does prove the inseparable bond between the Jordanian and Palestinian people who said the writer face a common destiny.

Human Rights File

What is in a change of name?

WHAT IS in a change of name for human rights? Plenty, said the International Human Rights Committee (HRCR) charged with the mandate of implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The case arose recently when a certain country refused an application from one of its citizens to change his last name into a Hindu sounding name. The country in question, which happens to have an otherwise impeccable human rights record, reasoned in its rejection of the application that it has the right to regulate name changing, especially when it is motivated by religious or ethnic reasons. While the case has yet to be dealt with and ruled upon, there is already an apparent division of opinion on whether the issue raises only issues under Article 17 of the ICCPR or also under Article 18. Article 17 stipulates that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family or correspondence. Article 18 states that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.... and to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

It has been argued that the applicant has two principal bones of contention: one that centres on his right to freedom of religion and the other the right to privacy. When a person changes his faith from religion A to B, in this case to Hinduism, can he or she be denied the right to change his or her name in a manner consistent with his new religion. The complainant in this case changed from Christianity to Hinduism and wanted for religious reasons to have a Hindu name just as a man or women converted into Islam may want to have Muslim name.

The opposite could be true of course. A Hindu who converts to Christianity may also want his name changed into a Christian name. So what is wrong with that? It appears to me, that irrespective of the religious

connotations of the issue, people should be free to change their names provided it is not done with such frequency that it becomes a nuisance to the state and the family. Likewise, the state has the right to regulate such a right in order to make sure that public order and orderly registration of names are not interfered with or threatened. This case may look simple to the novice in U.N. human rights endeavours, but it was regarded as so complex that the members of the human rights body were split right down in the middle over it. Some found no violation in the rejection of the application for the change of name and others found the opposite correct.

It would be interesting to know how Jordanians would feel about such a seemingly human rights issue. While a poll taking would be impossible in such a situation, readers are invited to voice their opinion on this vexing human rights matter by writing to or calling the writer about their views. Human rights cannot be pursued or analysed or ruled upon in isolation from the people who are, after all, the final arbiters of what is condonable and what is not in terms of human rights. I therefore respectfully depart from the traditional writing about human rights by engaging my audience as well in these writings. My questions on this subject would be simple: Does a person have a right to change his name for religious reasons, for ethnic reasons or for any other reason? If you are interested in this dialogue please write to me.

Another issue that is still being debated within international human rights circles is the call for equal treatment between so-called "legitimate" children and the so-called "illegitimate" ones. In fact, we in the human rights field no longer use these terms since children born out of wedlock constitute a very vulnerable group of children who deserve protection. Needless to say, there is a clear trend in international human

rights law to treat both categories the same and to call for removing all remaining vestiges of negative discrimination between them. Islam is quite progressive on this issue and contrary to public belief a recognised child inherits equally as a "legitimate" child. In this vein, many observers would point out that if there is anybody who is "illegitimate" when it comes to children born out of wedlock it is the parents themselves and not the innocent infant who has no say whatsoever in his or her conception and birth. Again, it would be interesting to know how the public regard this controversy. As long as we all put the question in proper perspective and keep in focus the need to protect children in general, including those whose biological parents have not been officially married, then addressing this concern would become reasonable from all points of view.

Most people tend to see human rights from a strictly traditional point of view with special attention being devoted to political rights and democracy. It is amazing how widespread are the issues that fall within the scope of human rights. We in Jordan tend to examine human rights in a very limited perspective, leaving aside family and child abuse, honour crimes, freedom of thought in schools and sexual crimes that go on unrecorded. I have been told that we have a serious problem with incest yet no one has ever dared to bring the subject to the surface. Hopefully, our society will divert its attention and concern from the traditional human rights problems into the ones that are still concealed from public scrutiny. It is too bad that neither the national charter nor the human rights code that the national human rights commission had drafted have even touched upon the other side of human rights. There is a case more pressing now than ever to have a national coordination on human rights for the purpose of placing the Jordanian human rights interest and involvement in proper perspective.



Handshakes, rights and validation within the family

By Rami G. Khouri

THE SUMMIT between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington today is more significant, in political and historical terms, than the Rabin-Arafat handshake last September. The Israeli-PLO dynamic continues the primacy of Israeli power over the Palestinians in Palestine, at least in the foreseeable future; the Israeli-Jordanian talks, on the other hand, may usher in a more balanced and meaningful Arab-Israeli relationship in the wider Middle East.

The Jordan-Israel talks

hold out the promise of three goals that have eluded our people for most of the last century: a) Arab acceptance of Israel as an integral, natural part of this region; b) Israeli acceptance of the sovereign territorial, water and other rights of its neighbouring Arab states, without subjecting Arab sovereignty to the supremacy of Israeli rights, fears and concerns; and c) A resumption of the prevalent historical reality that has defined this region and these peoples for several thousand years before the modern Arab-Israeli conflict erupted in the 1930s: namely, communal coexistence and practical human cooperation among Jews, Christians and Muslims, according to the ancient rules of ethnic and religious pluralism that have characterised the Middle East since the dawn of human civilisation in the Early Bronze Age some five millennia ago.

The real giveaway of the meaning and hope of the Jordanian-Israeli dynamic now underway is most obvious in the demeanor of the Israelis who stepped on Jordanian territory earlier this week. Their manner was honest and telling; they spoke in a vocabulary of great expectations, talking of peace and reconciliation.

week, it is the most substantive and progress for all. They were slightly awed, rather excited, and full of both disbelief and satisfaction. The Jordanians were more businesslike, uttering the now perfunctory expectations of peace and cooperation, but repeatedly stressing that Israel could live in peace and good neighbourliness only after it met the critical prerequisites of accepting Jordanian and Arab national rights, in terms of borders, security, water shares, the rights of Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem and other issues.

We will see these sentiments expressed again today at the White House in both the body language and diplomatic language of the principal actors. Mr. Rabin will not display the hesitancy that confused his handshake with Yasser Arafat; rather, he will shake King Hussein's hand with vigor and enthusiasm, probably also with a sense of great relief for the Jewish people. His Majesty King Hussein will display none of the wonder or effervescence that characterised Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn. For unlike Mr. Arafat, King Hussein meets Israel not as a junior partner seeking partial rights on a fraction of his ancestral land for an unspecified period of time, but rather as the leading edge of larger, stronger, and more self-confident Arab national culture that has satisfactorily come to terms with the place, size and role of the modern Jewish-Israeli community in its midst.

This summit is historic in superficial terms because it is the first time that leaders of Israel and an adjacent Arab state meet in public. Its real historicity, though, is not to be defined in the mendacious emotionalism that characterises the American milieu in which it takes place; its real significance is that, following the negotiations in Jordan last

with a lifeline of Western money, military aid and diplomatic patronage. Israel's highest and last national goal today is to be accepted as a natural, indigenous and normal Middle Eastern country. It has finally understood that the price of this acceptance is its own reciprocal and simultaneous acceptance of the national rights and communal reality of the Palestinian people, and the sovereign rights of the adjacent Arab states.

The PLO-Israel Oslo accord was the diplomatic currency in which this price was denominated; the implementation of the self-governing Palestinian authority agreement is the price that Israel has finally paid. The currency is slightly devalued by the imbalances in the Oslo accord; but ancient traders such as Arabs and Israelis accept that the qualitative value of the deal and the promise of its future dividends are more important than the depreciated quantitative value of the currency itself.

Consequently — and the sequence here is important for Israelis and Jews to recognise — the Arab states are now prepared to enter into more dynamic negotiations with Israel that will finally shatter the psychological and political obstacles of the past. This round of peacemaking is succeeding where the Camp David talks and other initiatives failed because today we address Israeli and Arab needs on a more equitable, reciprocal basis, without subjecting the rights of Arabs to the exaggerated security and recognition obsessions of Israelis. The message of hope from the current negotiations is due to the greater diplomatic balance that underpins the talks — a balance that respects the rights of Arabs and Israelis to mutual security and sovereignty arrangements. Therefore, Israelis will not only step on Arab soil as they have done in Jordan this week; more

importantly, because they have come to terms with Palestinian and Arab rights, Israelis can step back into the larger Middle Eastern family of Semitic peoples that has always been enriched by the coexistence and interaction among Christians, Muslims and Jews.

The key to this breakthrough will be long debated by historians, though several causal factors are already clear in retrospect: The exhaustion and economic precariousness of both sides (Israel and Jordan are among, if not the, world's highest per capita debtors); and, recognition of the futility of warfare and military strength as a means to genuine stability, peace and coexistence with neighbours. To it is glaringly obvious to all in this region that our pressing, sometimes existentially threatening, demographic and natural resource problems can only be addressed in a regional context. It is no accident, therefore, that the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks agenda is full of issues of regional cooperation, on water, transit, environmental protection, tourism promotion, energy generation and joint socio-economic development schemes in the Jordan Rift Valley and elsewhere.

This is not only in keeping with the exigencies of modern state, economic and demographic pressure; it is also an appropriate comment on how things should be within a single family. The relatively stable ancient Semitic family of Christians, Muslims and Jews in our region was torn asunder earlier this century by the grievous and deadly combination of the Zionist adventure, the post-1920 European fragmentation of the Arab region, the Holocaust, the dismemberment and diaspora of the Palestinians, the cold war, and the prevalence of autocratic Arab political

This is what the Washington handshakes are all about — not just making peace accords between states, but reviving an ancient and viable family that has been torn asunder by the (mainly European) stresses, fears and distortions of 20th century history. Jordan and Israel today do not merely express their willingness to coexist in peace at the end of a particularly hazardous century that has been problematic for all, but to rejuvenate a trans-national, inter-communal family dynamic that has been the only historical guarantor of peace, coexistence and progress for all for thousands of years.

We now pass through a moment that is truly historic because we witness the historical reassertion of the Semitic centre, in cultural and political terms — reasonable, self-confident Arab and Israeli leaders and people who can rid themselves of the fleeting constraints that were born in mid-century, and instead who reaffirm the more constructive legacy of inter-communal coexistence that has generally defined Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations for thousands of years. For this to happen, Israel must be formally accepted and validated by its Semitic brothers and sisters in this region, and not only by its friends and financers on other continents.

The process of acceptance and validation must be mutually supportive to be convincing and lasting. This is the main difference between this round of peace-making and all previous efforts. This round is not just about Arab recognition of Israel; it is about the collective and reciprocal rights and future opportunities of Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and others who are interested to join in the process.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria schedules elections for Aug. 24

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has scheduled nationwide elections for parliament on Aug. 24, the Syrian Arab News Agency said Sunday. The vote for the Syrian People's Assembly following the expiry of its four-year term was announced in decree no. 62, signed Saturday by Mr. Assad, the state-run news agency said. Mr. Assad's ruling Socialist Baath Party is allocated half the assembly's 250 seats, while five allied parties grouped in the National Progressive Front get 30 seats. The rest are reserved for independents including merchants, businessmen and industrialists. The legislature's powers are basically limited to formally approving legislation and national budgets.

UAE court begins BCCI appeal hearings

ABUDHABI (AP) — Hearings began Sunday for 10 of 12 former executives of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) appealing their convictions of fraud and mismanagement in one of the world's biggest banking scandals. The hearings at the federal appeals court were ordered closed by Judge Abdul Wahab Abdool in response to a request from the prosecution. Journalists were then ordered to leave the courtroom. Public Prosecutor Mujaahid Al Hosni made the request arguing "it would be detrimental to national security and economic interest for the information to be discussed during this case to become public knowledge." After the brief hearing, Mr. Abdool scheduled the next session for Sept. 7. The court is hearing both criminal and civil aspects of the case.

Deri pleads innocent of bribery

TEL AVIV (AP) — A key former ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pleaded innocent Sunday of charges he accepted \$170,000 of bribes while serving as a cabinet minister, Israel Radio said. Arye Deri, head of the fervently religious Shas Party, admitted accepting tens of thousands of dollars but told a court the money was earmarked for various charities and educational funds, the radio said. Mr. Deri, who was interior minister under both the former right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir and under Mr. Rabin, was forced to resign last fall after waging a three-year battle against an array of corruption charges.

Kadhoumi meets U.S., Russian ambassadors

DAMASCUS (AP) — The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department said Sunday that he had met with the U.S. and Russian ambassadors in Damascus to discuss international issues and the PLO. Farouk Kadhoumi, who has been in Damascus since Thursday, also discussed the latest developments in the process towards peace in the Middle East. He said he and the Russian delegate discussed enhancing relations between Moscow and the Palestinians, but did not elaborate on his talks with the American. In addition to the envoys, Mr. Kadhoumi has met with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra and other senior officials to discuss the issue of peace and Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Kadhoumi said he still had "reservations" about the Palestinian autonomy accord and did not trust Israel to satisfy Palestinian needs.

Tourist stabbed in Jerusalem, police say

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Two Palestinian youths stabbed an American woman tourist in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday night, Israeli police said. The woman, aged about 30, was knifed in the back and taken to the hospital in "moderate" condition, a police spokesman said. Police closed gates to the walled Old City in an attempt to catch the assailants, who fled.

Palestinian kills alleged collaborator

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian man shot dead an alleged collaborator with Israel in the occupied West Bank early Sunday, Palestinian sources said. The attacker pumped several bullets into Hossni Dib Odeh, 38, at point-blank range at the dead man's home just north of Tulkarm, after accusing him of "collaboration." The sources said the attacker made off with the victim's pistol.

1 dead, 5 wounded in Kabul rocket salvo

KABUL (AP) — A barrage of 10 to 12 rockets were fired into central Kabul early Sunday, striking the Foreign Ministry and adjacent government offices, with one civilian killed and five others seriously wounded, according to hospital sources. Security guards said four of the rockets, allegedly fired by Hizb-e-Islami fighters of opposition faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, exploded in the Foreign Ministry grounds causing "minor physical damage" but no human casualties.

Army says ceasefire in Sudan holding

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese army said on Sunday that it was observing a ceasefire which came into effect at midnight on Saturday and there were no reports of fighting between army troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir declared the ceasefire on Friday in response to an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, who heads a regional grouping currently mediating between Khartoum and the SPLA.

Kuwaitis told to seek Islamic state

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis should still campaign to create an Islamic state despite the failure of an attempt to enshrine Islam as the sole source of law, a Muslim fundamentalist magazine said on Sunday. "We urge national assembly deputies and all of the activists in popular political powers to continue efforts to achieve the rules of the Islamic teachings in the country by amending article two of the constitution or any other suitable way," an editorial in Al Muytamaa weekly magazine said. Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah last week sent a letter to parliament saying that a constitutional change proposed by Islamist deputies to make Islam the sole source of law was unnecessary.

Boy vanishes in Cairo sewers

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AIDS killed 82 in Iran — official

TEHRAN (R) — Eighty-two people have died of AIDS in Iran so far, newspapers reported here Sunday, quoting a health ministry official. Mohammad Azmudeh, director general of the ministry's contagious diseases department, said 283 people, including 35 women, were known to have been infected with the virus in Iran, of whom 100 had developed full-blown AIDS. He said 82 people, including seven women, had died of the disease.



Palestinian workers cross the Erez checkpoint on Sunday

Security tightened at Erez

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police have tightened security along the road leading to the Israel-Gaza border to prevent a recurrence of violence in which two Palestinian workers were killed last week, witnesses said on Sunday.

Thousands of Palestinian labourers from Gaza crossed without incident into Israel on Sunday, the first working day in the week in the Jewish state.

On Friday, Israel lifted a five-day-old closure of the Erez border crossing imposed after workers frustrated by lengthy Israeli security checks attacked Israeli soldiers, a bus depot and a petrol station near the checkpoint.

An Israeli officer, identified by Israeli radio only as Colonel Shaul, told reporters Palestinian police had agreed

to set up new roadblocks "as we recommended."

He said they were deploying along the road leading to Erez and patrol adjacent citrus groves to prevent Palestinians without permits from sneaking into Israel.

Witnesses said Palestinian police, in charge of security in the self-rule area of Gaza, made workers get out of buses and taxis and walk the last kilometre to the border.

Israel Radio said the measure was taken to ensure only small groups of workers reached the Israeli checkpoint at one time.

Col. Shaul said Israel was doubling the number of inspection lanes at Erez.

Last week's incident was the most serious outbreak of violence in Palestinian-controlled territory since Israel pulled out of Gaza and

Jericho in late May.

More than 15,000 Arab labourers crossed Sunday into Israel, queuing for more than two hours.

"It's worse than before, and even then it was bad," said Haled Radwan, a house painter who had to make it to Ashkelon, some 15 kilometers away.

"Today, the Palestinians first let those with permits through, and then the Israelis check us very slowly, one by one, and scrutinise single one of us."

On Friday, only 3,200 trickled through, out of the 20,000 who possess permits.

Sunday was the first full working day, and an estimated 17,500 went through by mid-morning, according to the U.N. figures. Israeli officials said more than 15,000.

The strict measures kept

away many who had no permits but who were previously able to slip through to find a job. Unemployment is running at 40 per cent on the Strip.

"There is peace now, why are they doing this?" asked Nayef Bakir, who has been trying to obtain a permit to enter Israel for two months.

"What should I do to feed my family? Why are they pushing us to extremes? If an Israeli soldier were to push me and send me back, I'd kill him."

Others were equally upset by the Palestinian police controls.

"This morning, our Arab brothers treated us like the Israelis do," said Hamdan Abu Adel, 50. "I'm really afraid the next days will get worse. We heard there is peace but we have not seen anything on the ground."

more pressing for Jordan as it became apparent that Palestinians had already moved ahead in their negotiations with Israel and that "there was movement on the Syrian track" as King Hussein noted in his press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

With the apparent failing of "Arab coordination" vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Jordan analysts believe, had to move on its own track and reap the benefits that would result from new regional arrangements.

The King has put it very clearly in several statements he made before and after the announcement of his meeting with Mr. Rabin. "It is about time we paid attention to our country which is both threatened and besieged," the King said on July 16 in another meeting with army officers in the south of the country.

Hizbullah assails Israeli threats

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbullah said on Sunday it did not fear Israeli threats of retaliation for a bombing in Argentina that killed up to 100 Jews.

It vowed to continue its holy war against Israel.

"The enemy must understand that the stage of threats to crush skulls has long passed ... this logic does not work with our people and our resistance anymore," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, said.

"With what is (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin threatening us? With death? ... Death is our habit and martyrdom is a gift from Allah," he said.

Sheikh Nasrallah, flanked by heavily-armed bodyguards, was speaking at a rally in Beirut to mark the first anniversary of a seven-day Israeli air, ground and sea bombardment of South Lebanon in which 150 people

mostly civilians — were killed.

Israeli officials have vowed to avenge the July 18 bombing of Buenos Aires' main Jewish community centre. They say Hizbullah and its sponsor Tehran were behind the attack.

Some officials have said Israel would try to identify and annihilate all those involved.

A car-bomb was likely used in the Buenos Aires blast, Argentine authorities said Saturday.

Investigators said they believe the car-bomb's exterior was reinforced to direct its explosive force at the seven-storey Jewish Mutual Association building, said Buenos Aires Security Secretary Alberto Piotti.

The bomb contained more than 100 kilograms of a chemical explosive, said Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Doglioli, a defence analyst.

'1994 heralds peace'

(Continued from page 1)

Syrians are stubborn. Is that a fair perception or are the Israelis also responsible at times for lack of progress? Are they also picking over the fine points at times?

A: Well, I think that you might have added that the Israelis are intransigent also because again I think the perception is that the Israelis have been in a position where they have negotiated with each of the parties individually, but never has the impression been given other than in the last few days of the readiness to discuss issues with all the parties simultaneously and to see the secretary of state visiting Damascus and then going to talk to the Palestinians, attending talks in the Jordanian-Israeli context is reassuring because you feel that comprehensiveness is in the air.

Q: Is Capitol Hill a huge beast that is very hard to get your lobbyists in and out of its quarters?

A: Well, I think it is difficult effectively in this age of new world order to feel that we are all constituents of Capitol Hill and I certainly would like to feel that there is greater democracy in foreign policy, and that is to understand that we have an... agenda within the people that is to say the peoples and that countries of the region and to try to build a two-way dialogue.

Q: Did I understand that you said in the context of a new world order as it is today everybody has become constituents of Capitol Hill across the world?

A: Well, I think there is the feeling that "big brother" is increasingly influential and I think that there is the feeling that after the cold war — the United States is and will play a leadership role and what I am calling for is intellectual generosity on behalf of Capitol Hill to hear the other side of the story.

Q: There is a public perception that when the talks do not progress it is because the Palestinians are disorganized, that because the Jordanians are strong in the pursuit of peace.

A: As we look at our Armed Forces, clearly we want to emphasise that Jordan is geographically and politically a pivot between Israel on the one side and the oil of the world; 45 per cent of the world's oil requirements will come from this part of the world; increasingly in the months and years ahead, and therefore this pivot has to be strong, and I think that in terms of our legitimate self-defence needs this restructuring is to look at priorities in the defence sector and to make it clear that Jordan is not a walk-over, that Jordan is strong in the pursuit of peace.

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Summit caps accelerated pace of events

(Continued from page 1)

linking Jordan with Egypt via Israel and to open their border by the Red Sea to foreign nationals.

Tourists would be able to travel from Eilat in Israel to Aqaba, two popular resorts close together at the northern end of the Red Sea, but separated by years of enmity.

Reports from Israel said Mr. Rabin intended to present King Hussein with a photo album showing the restoration work at the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem funded by the King's personal contribution.

The three leaders will address an invited gathering and the press at public cere-

monies on the South Lawn of the White House at 11:40 a.m. (6:40 p.m. Jordan time).

At 12:40 (7:40 p.m. Jordan time) the U.S. president and the two leaders hold another meeting over a working lunch at Blair House close to the White House.

The Washington meetings begin at around 10:00 a.m. Washington time (5 p.m. Jordan time) with Mr. Clinton welcoming the King and Mr. Rabin to the White House for a private meeting that is scheduled to begin 25 minutes later.

Both Mr. Sa'd and Mr. Khreisah shared the opinion that the peace talks held at the Dead Sea and the forthcoming talks between His Majesty King Hussein, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should culminate in a peace treaty, which should be signed after all pending issues are addressed properly and a comprehensive peace reached.

Secretary General of the

Popular Unity Party Talal Al Ramahi said: "Following the Wadi Araha meeting between Jordanian and Israeli officials, Jordan has entered a historical stage."

Mr. Ramahi said such developments should be viewed with careful optimism. He said Jordanian negotiators "will not abandon any iota of land, or any right."

He said normalisation with Israel should not come before addressing all pending issues.

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Fed threat of rate hike raises risks for economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan says he does not see much of a risk of the economy being damaged by a further rise in interest rates — but some private economists are not so sure.

They point to mounting signs that the economy is slowing — from falling housing starts to rising inventories — and worry that the Fed may go too far in its drive to stamp out inflation and snuff out growth instead.

"The risk is that the Fed will end up tightening excessively and slow the economy more than necessary to keep inflation in check," Bruce Steinberg, an economist at Wall Street broker Merrill Lynch and Co. said.

In testimony to Congress last week, Mr. Greenspan left open the possibility the Fed might raise rates further and made clear he was far more concerned about fighting inflation than he was about supporting near-term economic growth.

"It is an open question whether our actions to date have been sufficient to head off inflationary pressures and thus maintain favourable trends in the economy," he said.

The central bank has already raised interest rates four times this year in a bid to prevent the economy from overheating and inflation

from stoking up. Economists saw scattered signs that the Fed's medicine is working and some warned that further rate rises could prove over-kill.

Those signs included news last week that housing starts fell nearly 10 per cent in June and that unemployment claims jumped sharply in the middle of this month.

"The corner has already been turned," said Robert Davis, chief economist at the Savings and Community Bankers of America. "Further tightening runs the risk of precipitating a very significant decline" in growth and even an economic contraction, he added.

Mr. Davis said that the Fed's interest rate hikes had brought the growth in bank reserves and money supply — the fuel for future growth in spending — to a halt and, in some cases, even reversed it.

Stanley Duohinis, director of forecasting at National Association of Home Builders, said housing was one of the sectors that was particularly vulnerable if the Fed raised rates much further.

"We've got a serious problem," he said. "We could see a serious downturn."

Right now, though, that's not what the association foresees. It expects construction starts on single family homes to decline to 1.11 million next year from 1.165 million this

year. That's still a quite respectable showing.

But that forecast assumes that interest rates only rise a quarter percentage point more this year, before levelling off in 1995. Rates on 30-year mortgages are already two points above the lows set in October last year and currently stand at around 8.5 per cent.

In his congressional testimony last week, Mr. Greenspan gave no hint of how soon or how far he might increase interest rates, should he decide that was necessary.

But he made clear that, if anything, he was going to err on the side of tightening credit too much, arguing that the economy remains robust.

Government statistics due out Friday are expected to show that the economy expanded by some four per cent in the second quarter, after growing by 3.4 per cent in the first three months of the year.

On the face of it, those statistics should buttress Mr. Greenspan's view of the economy.

But some analysts believe the data will contain the seeds of future economic weakness because much of the improvement in growth will stem from an unwanted build-up in inventories that will have to be worked off in the months ahead.

And that's what has them worried.

International Chamber of Commerce sees high economic potential for Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) intends to play a strong role in developing the business potential of the Middle East in an era of peace and sees Jordan as a gateway to the region, a senior official of the Paris-based organisation said Sunday.

Jean-Charles Rouher of France, secretary-general of the ICC, was addressing a press conference winding up discussions here with the local chapter of the ICC headed by Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Rouher said his visit to Jordan was aimed at putting forward "points of view in relation to what is happening in the region and what is the role of the ICC."

"We've got a lot of issues to review and a very significant evolution of events to watch and draw conclusions from," Mr. Rouher said, referring to the progress in the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the effects peace would have on the region's economy.

"Depending on the smoothness of the (peace) process, this country (Jordan) could join forces with the business community in the neighbouring countries," Mr. Rouher said. This, he said, "will help increase investments and normal ways of trading to the prosperity of the country."

For its part, the ICC will make an effort to inform its members — private sector firms in 138 countries — of the opportunities available in Jordan, said Mr. Rouher.

"In addition, Jordan has already reached a good level in terms of services in this part of the world — shipping services, financial services, and trade services," Mr. Rouher said.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al-Hassan on Sunday meets with International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Secretary-General Jean-Charles Rouher (centre) and ICC local chapter head Mohammad Asfour (Petr photo)

who was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al-Hassan on Sunday.

The secretariat of the ICC in Paris is "establishing closer relations" with its chapters in the Middle East and elsewhere in the Arab World with a view to ascertaining what it could do to promote business in the region once Arab-Israeli peace is established, Mr. Rouher said.

In a peaceful Middle East, when trade barriers are lifted with Israel, there are fears that the Jewish state might dominate the area in trade.

But to Mr. Rouher, Mr. Asfour and Tawfiq Kawar, a leading shipping agent and businessman, the worries were unfounded.

Mr. Rouher pointed out that that compared with Israel labour costs in Jordan were much cheaper, giving the Kingdom a natural edge in every sphere of industry and production where the two countries are likely to compete.

"In addition, Jordan has already reached a good level in terms of services in this part of the world — shipping services, financial services, and trade services," Mr. Rouher said.

"I am not really worried about Israeli products being dumped on us, drowning our market," said Mr. Asfour. "We are just as competitive as they (Israel) are, if not better."

"Maybe they are ahead of us in certain industrial technology," he said. "However, I feel that we would have the advantage in promoting our industries because we have cheap labour and good laws that govern our national industry..."

Mr. Kawar pointed out that Israeli industries and technology were oriented towards the Western market, and as such they do not pose any threat to Jordan. In the context of agricultural produce, the cost of production in Israel is high and again the products are geared towards meeting European needs, he pointed out.

"There might be some kind of electrical equipment, technical equipment, hospital equipment" that Israel might be interested in exporting to the Arab World, Mr. Kawar said. "But then, they have to compete with Taiwan, with Singapore, with Hong Kong."

Mr. Rouher described the Jordan chapter — national committee — of the ICC as very active. The Kingdom is a member of several commissions of the ICC.

The International Cham-

ber of Commerce was founded in 1919 with the aim of serving world business, by promoting trade and investment, open markets for goods and services, and the free flow of capital.

The original nucleus, representing the private sectors of Belgium, Britain, France, Italy and the United States, has expanded to become a world business organisation with thousands of member companies and associations in more than 130 countries. Members include many of the world's biggest companies and represent every major industrial and service sector.

The ICC represents businesses to governments and intergovernmental organisations.

On the eve of every summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations for example, the ICC president heads a business delegation to the host head of government to present business recom-

mendations to the world's leading economic powers.

The ICC keeps in touch with members all over the world through its conferences and triennial congresses — the most recent in Mexico in October, 1993. As a member-driven organisation, with national committees in 60 countries, it has adapted its structure to meet the changing needs of business. Many of them are practical services, like the ICC International Court of Arbitration, which is the longest established ICC institution. The court is the world's leading body for resolving international commercial disputes by arbitration. At the beginning of 1994, some 750 arbitrations were in progress, involving amounts in dispute exceeding \$20 billion.

The ICC has set up three London-based services to combat commercial crime — the international Maritime Bureau, dealing with all types of maritime crime; the Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, and the Commercial Crime Bureau. To coordinate the work of the three bureaux, an umbrella organisation, ICC Commercial Crime Services, was established at the beginning of 1994.

Another recent ICC initiative is the World Industry Council for the Environment (WICE), an autonomous body set up after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Its main task is to make sure that governments take full account of business recommendations as decisions taken at the Earth Summit are translated into legislative action. Membership includes 88 of the world's biggest companies.

Mixed signals on Russia's reform

MOSCOW (R) — The prospects for Russia's economic reforms are mixed as parliament heads for its summer break, with hardliners determined to fight in court against a presidential decree to advance privatisation.

Parliament, dominated by conservatives and communists, rejected the government's draft privatisation law last week but President Boris Yeltsin rode roughshod over the parliamentary delays and signed a decree ordering the government to go ahead anyway.

Just before the recess the assembly also approved plans to compensate savers whose rouble deposits have been wiped out by soaring prices and negative real interest rates over the last two years.

Reformers fear that measures could pump prices again just as Mr. Yeltsin's government appears to be winning the battle against inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree, issued Friday, sets out procedures for selling state property after the July 1 expiry of privatisation vouchers distributed free of charge last year.

The second stage of the scheme introduces cash auctions to replace the old method of swapping shares in state-owned firms for the privatisation vouchers.

Government officials hope the second stage will bring in trillions of roubles (billions of dollars) — a welcome fillip to a country struggling to keep the 1994 budget deficit under 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

The decree says revenue from first-stage privatisation will be free of tax and orders regions to follow rules set by the centre.

Reformers had failed five times to muster the parliamentary majority needed to turn the privatisation plans into law.

Opponents of the plan, who include communists, agrarians and extreme nationalists holding a majority in the state Duma, or lower house of parliament, said the draft law did not meet Russia's interests. Some said it would open up the country to speculators and criminals.

The communists have said they will challenge in the constitutional court Mr. Yeltsin's privatisation decree. They called on Russians to "set up a wide resistance front to oppose the sell-off of state and municipal enterprises."

Russia began its economic reforms in 1992, freezing prices and starting to transfer state property to private

hands. Some 40 million Russians already own shares through a sell-off which officials describe as the most successful element of the country's painful economic transformation.

Parliament played its own part in the battle against Mr. Yeltsin's policies Friday, pledging compensation for people whose savings had been whittled away by inflation in the two and a half years since reform began.

Deputies approved the first reading of a law which would index savings deposits to January 1992 levels, although the money can only be used for government promissory notes.

Russia has struggled to rein in inflation, which fell to a monthly 4.8 per cent last month, from 22 per cent in January.

Former reform chief Yegor Gaidar Saturday predicted an upturn in inflation, saying this was the lowest level to which it would fall this year.

"This is the lowest level we can foresee provided the population does not change its monetary behaviour significantly, which would be too much to expect," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Gaidar as saying.

But the chamber was likely

Kuwait tax plan sure to arouse opposition

KUWAIT (R) — Outraged Kuwaiti legislators are likely to shoot down a government proposal to impose income tax to curb a growing budget deficit but may agree to raise fees for welfare state services, economists said Sunday.

Wide-ranging reforms proposed at the weekend, including the imposition of company tax on Kuwaiti firms, won a varied response from members of parliament, businessmen and civil servants long used to an all-providing nanny state funded by oil exports.

The economists said some changes might pass the opposition-dominated chamber because of emerging consensus on the need to curb a deficit equivalent to one fifth of national wealth.

"The Kuwaiti businessman said he would accept taxation as long as Kuwait retained its parliamentary democracy."

"It (the welfare state) can't go on like it used to," he said. "We are going through hard times. I'll go for it as long as it is fair and as long as I have

representation. There must be no taxation without representation."

"Before you go to the citizen and ask him to sacrifice you ought to convince him that all areas of extravagance in government expenditure have been stopped," former finance minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, said last week.

"Had the deficit problem been caused by a lack in revenue that would have been a major reason for imposing fees. But the basic reason for the deficit problem is the unwise expenditure by public institutions," he said.

Sheikh Rodhan also plans to start imposing company tax on local firms and a sales tax on services and wants to impose custom levies on more types of imports.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"Stanley never congratulated me on my raise! He was too busy ordering new stuff on the phone!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Avoid calling on a difficult person early in the day and be alert to carelessness on the part of others who have a history of making wrong choices. Strive to become more successful in the P.M.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You have some fine creative ideas which need expression at this time. Try to be more thoughtful of relatives and how they feel at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Know where you are headed vocally and you can become more successful. Show more interest in outside activities which you enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

A day when you are inspired to gain your dreams come true. Be charming with others and you have great success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Rid yourself of unwanted obligations and you feel free, happier. Obtain data you need from the right sources for an important project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

This is a good day to talk over with associates ways to be more productive in the future. Take no risks with your health in any form.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Make the right improvements to surroundings and have more efficiency there. Strive for increased happiness with whatever is your desire.

THE Daily Crossword

by Ronald C. Hirschfeld



Chinese sweep aside Goodwill Games pool row

ST PETERSBURG (R) — China's women imperiously swept aside controversy over a murky pool to dominate the opening swimming events of the multinational 16-day Goodwill Games Sunday and take four gold medals.

The United States, spearheaded by 200 metres butterfly winner Mel Stewart, took three golds and Russia two, including one for double Olympic gold medalist Alexander Popov in the 50 metres freestyle.

But times were mediocre as most of the swimmers complained about poor visibility in the cloudy water and the Swedish team, including leading freestylers Tommy Werner and Anders Holmertz pulled out at the last minute.

China's women were complaining least, despite fielding what coach Wen Xinlong described as a third-string team which would not go to September's world championships, they extended the recent domination which has set their rivals quaking.

Ren Xin, Hong Shu and Bai Xiuyu won the 100 metres breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke respectively.

They then combined with Kang Li to take the 4x100 medley relay by almost three seconds from a United States team featuring 100 metres freestyle world champion Nicole Haistler and Angel Martino, ninth fastest American ever at 100 metres butterfly.

Wen, who has had to face accusations that the sudden rise of the Chinese women is due to illicit drug use, brushed aside such suggestions and said his swimmers simply had a superior technique.

"I saw some of the best swimmers in the world here (from other countries) but their technique was not always very good," he told a news conference.

Mel Stewart of the U.S. became the first person to win three successive Goodwill Games titles, powering away from Russia's reigning European champion Denis Pankratov to win the men's 200 metres butterfly in 1:58.46, well outside his own world record of 1:55.69.

The Olympic and world champion said he had been feeling the effects of nagging tonsillitis which could keep him out.

Spain beat U.S., retain Fed Cup

FRANKFURT (R) — Champions Spain retained their Federation Cup women's team tennis title Sunday by cruising to a 2-0 lead over second seeds the United States.

Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez set Spain en route to victory with a swift 6-2, 6-2 win over Mary Joe Fernandez in the opening singles.

Aranita Sanchez Vicario, the French Open winner and current world number two, followed with an equally convincing 6-2, 6-1 demolition of Lindsay Davenport, with only the

doubles left.

Spain have now won the competition three times, first in 1991 and then again last year.

Under a searing sun and in sweltering heat that topped 30 degrees Celsius, the Spaniards routed their rivals.

Martinez, who suffered a shock defeat by Germany's Sabine Hack in the singles in Saturday's semifinals, took just 62 minutes to sweep aside Fernandez.

Sanchez Vicario eliminated Davenport even more quickly.



German Bayern Munich's Michael Sternkoff (right) moves in on Brazilian Flamengo's tournament final Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. Marcos Adriano as the midfielder clears the Flamengo won 3-1 (AFP photo)

Yankees exec. resigns over remarks dispute

NEW YORK (AP) — Embattled New York Yankees executive Richard Kraft, heavily criticised the past week after referring to black youths as "monkeys" in a magazine interview, announced his resignation Saturday.

"I've made up my mind to resign," Kraft said in a statement issued by the U.S. Major League baseball club. "It's my personal decision. It's the right thing to do for my health and for the Yankees."

Kraft, who has denied making the racially charged statements, did not address the comments in his three-sentence statement. Stress over the article aggravated Kraft's heart condition, which was a factor in his decision.

He stepped down from his job as vice president for community relations just hours

after dozens of protesters from the National Rainbow Coalition marched outside Yankee Stadium carrying signs that read, "We're not monkeys, we're people."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who led the protest, said the resignation was a direct result of the pressure brought against the Yankees by minority groups.

"I don't think Mr. Kraft's health went bad to the last few minutes," said Sharpton. "I think the Yankees' health went bad when they saw scores of people marching in the rain who would keep coming back."

The protest was held outside an empty stadium.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, a friend of Kraft's for the last four decades, defended his associate in accepting the resignation.

"Anyone who knows him must find it hard to believe

that the remarks attributed to him were made," said Steinbrenner, whose request for copies of the interview notes was turned down by New York Magazine.

Magazine editor Kurt Andersen has said repeatedly that New York stands behind his story.

Kraft is quoted in the current issue as referring to black youths as "monkeys" and "coloured." Steinbrenner critics charged the comments were proof that the Yankee owner's bid to move the Yankees out of the Bronx was racially motivated.

Steinbrenner is scheduled to meet with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of the Rainbow Coalition, at a time and place still undetermined.

Jackson had called for Kraft's ouster over the comments.

Kraft was replaced by Brian Smith, who had served as his assistant.

CHICAGO (AP) — Dan Majerle's last experience with international basketball is one that still defies explanation. How could a team with the likes of David Robinson, Danny Manning and Mitch Richmond fail to win?

"Nothing that happens will ever vindicate not winning the gold medal," said Majerle, the leading scorer for that 1988 U.S. Olympic team that was beaten by the Soviet Union and had to settle for a bronze, oot a gold medal.

"That was such a special team, with Robinson and Manning. I thought we had a

good enough team to win," Majerle said of a team laden with future NBA players.

Two years later, the U.S. lost in the 1990 World Championships with another team of college players. The makeup of the teams would change, however, because of a vote by the International Basketball Federation world congress in 1989 that allowed open competition in international play.

Thus, NBA players were given the go-ahead to play in the Olympics and world championships.

The Dream Team I rolled

through eight games, winning by an average of 44 points en route to a gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

But for Majerle, the 1988 Olympics were a lesson he's never forgotten.

"The fact we supposedly

have the best players in the

world, means we can't let

down, because you can still

lose even though you have the

best team," said the

Phoenix Suns' guard

forward.

Atlanta worries about fans, athletes in scorching summer temperatures

ATLANTA (AP) — Scorching summer temperatures are nothing new to Atlantans, but Olympic athletes and spectators from more temperate parts of the world may have trouble beating the heat in 1996.

The heat tolerance of spectators is of particular concern to Olympic officials, because they won't be under the watchful eye of coaches, like the athletes.

Providing free beverages, even water, could be a problem for officials because sponsors such as the Coca-Cola Co. and Anheuser-Busch hold the rights to provide soft drinks and beer at the Olympic Games.

"We're not trying to interfere with ACOG (Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games)," said Susan Pease Langford, the city's director of Olympic coordination.

"You'd be interfering with all the businesses that want to sell their products."

For now, neither the local health department nor private organisations such as the American Red Cross has plans to distribute free water to tourists.

Temperatures are expected

to hover in the mid to high-90 degrees Fahrenheit (about 37-41 Celsius) about 10 degrees hotter than 1992's Barcelona Olympics.

International Olympic officials, however, have a different picture of summertime in Atlanta.

The Atlanta bid committee said the average temperature during the proposed dates for the Olympics was 78 degrees Fahrenheit (20 Celsius)," said Dick Pound, chairman of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) coordination commission for the Atlanta Games.

Pound and other officials had been doubtful of the figures ACOG gave based on a 10-year survey by the National Weather Service.

"I guess that Atlanta's dirty little secret," Pound has said.

Many people already know that sunburn, heat stroke and heat exhaustion can come easily at temperatures in the high 90s Fahrenheit (40-41 Celsius). But what may not be well known, especially to Europeans and northerners, is that the same problems can happen at lower temperatures.

There were few reported problems for fans. At nearly every venue, "cool tents" were erected for fans in the parking lots. The centre had misting cool water released with large fans blowing it to comfort fans.

Majerle tries to purge memory of '88 Olympics

through eight games, winning by an average of 44 points en route to a gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

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forward.

As cheers have faded for Douglas, he talks of rematch with Tyson

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — On Feb. 11, 1990, James "Buster" Douglas realised the improbable dream of becoming the heavyweight champion of the world.

His knockout of Mike Tyson — in a fight held in Tokyo because there were no takers for the expected mismatch in the United States was perhaps the biggest upset in boxing history.

The cheers quickly faded after his disgraceful loss to Evander Holyfield eight months later.

Still, Douglas is at peace and satisfied with his life, despite a near-fatal bout with diabetes three weeks ago.

He's even thinking about a rematch with Tyson.

Larry Nallie, Douglas' business manager and friend, has been approached by a Tyson lawyer who has proposed a rematch when Tyson is released next year from prison, where he is serving a sentence for rape.

"Maybe the end of next year, beginning of the following year," Douglas said. "It's something I've thought about considerably."

For now, his major concern is his fight against Holyfield.

Still, Douglas is at peace and satisfied with his life, despite a near-fatal bout with diabetes three weeks ago.

Four times a day, Douglas sticks a pin in his finger to draw and test his own blood.

Twice a day, he administers his own insulin shots. Before spending eight days in a hospital, he said he was a Zombi because of the chemical imbalance inside him.

"I thank God every day when I get up," said Douglas, relaxing recently in a Harley-Davidson motorcycle T-shirt.

"I asked for one thing and it's like my cup runneth over. I made a few mistakes along the way, but I still thank him for the blessings he bestowed upon me."

Douglas, who splits his

time between a home in his native Columbus and a mansion on Marco Island, Florida, says he still has a large chunk of the \$24.1 million he was paid for getting knocked out by Holyfield in the third round of his only title defence Oct. 25, 1990. That was his last fight.

The loss heaped scorn on Douglas, roundly criticised for not trying harder to get up.

More devastating to him than all that criticism, however, was the death of his mother, LuLu Pearl Douglas, died two weeks before he stunned Tyson with a 10th-round knockout. He said he

was depressed for a year over her death.

That's why Douglas prefers to count his blessings.

"Even the problems I have now could be worse. But I wouldn't trade them for anything in the world," he said. "I have three beautiful sons and a beautiful wife. I'm doing some things I like and changing some things I don't. And believe it or not, I face challenges every day."

Douglas keeps busy. He manages two fighters, looks over his business interests, coaches in a midnight basketball league, gives time and money to charity, makes personal appearances, and answers his mail.

He also oversees the

foundation he founded and

named for his mother. He has

named a community centre in

Columbus in her honour, and

is planning other developments in the city.

Boxing remains a part of him.

He still watches bouts on TV and measures himself against the fighters.

James 'Buster' Douglas

With the proper training, he could get down to 235 or 245 pounds (106.5-111 kilograms). After all, he said he weighed 300 pounds (136 kilograms) before beginning training for the Holyfield fight. He was at 280 pounds (127 kilograms) when he went to Las Vegas a month before the fight and said he trained hard to get to the 247 pounds (112 kilograms) he weighed for the fight. He weighed 232 pounds (105 kilograms) against Tyson.

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tures if there's high humidity, the human body does a cool easily or quickly. I'm sweating because the atmosphere, Atlanta's humidity, we also reach the 90 per cent level in summer.

ACOG is working with doctors experienced in dealing with heat and crowd Atlanta, such as the Peachtree Road Race.

High heat and humidity were a concern during the recently completed West Cup, where field temperatures reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 Celsius).

Orlando, Florida, which is south of Atlanta and has a similar notorious reputation for a searing summer climate, was considered the best heat at the World Cup along with another of the five venues — Dallas.

There were few report problems for fans. At nearly every venue, "cool tents" were erected for fans in the parking lots. The centre has misting cool water release with large fans blowing it, comfort fans.

large mpics

through eight games, winning by an average of 44 points en route to a gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and Dream Team II is expected to do the same in the World Championships next month.

But for Majerle, the 1992 Olympics were a lesson he never forgot.

"The fact we supposed have the best players in the world, means we can't be down, because you can't lose even though you are the best team," said the Phoenix Suns' guard forward.

Sports



The Amman Little League baseball team comprised of Mark Abdullah, Nayef Ahal, Karim Atalla, Karim Ayoubi, Omar Azar, Salim Baidoun, Mahamoud Darwish, Zaid Haj Hassan, Hazim Hindash, Raja Khouri, Sa'ad Kurdi, Tamir Nuber, Omar Saleh, Sameer Sharaf and coaches Alonso Fulgham and Henry Francis. Sunday poses after practice at the American School sports field. The team of 11 and 12-year-olds will represent Jordan at the European Little League baseball (Photos by Rana Hussein)



Berasategui overcomes heat to win Stuttgart Open title

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Spain's Alberto Berasategui overcame searing heat Sunday to outrace Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 7-5, 6-3, 7-6, (7-5) and capture his third career title at the \$1.04 million Mercedes Cup.

Berasategui, the French Open finalist, relied on his unorthodox forehand to win the big points against Gaudenzi, who was playing in his first final of a major tournament.

The fourth-seeded Berasategui rallied from 2-4 down in the third-set tiebreaker, helped by Gaudenzi's

mistake of allowing a passing shot to go by that landed inside the court.

Both men pressed the attack, trying to end points early, in the heat where temperatures on court were recorded at 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius).

"I thought if I lose this set, I'm very tired. But I thought Gaudenzi wasn't much better off," Berasategui said.

Berasategui, now ranked 14th in the world, will crack the top 10 with the title. Ranked 91st at this time last year, he was reached eight clay court finals within 11 months.

Gaudenzi, another player on the rise, tried to attack Berasategui's backhand, but the Spaniard counterpunched by spraying forehand winners all over the court. He finally closed out the match in one hour and 58 minutes when Gaudenzi's forehand sailed long.

"That's my tactic," said Berasategui. "I walk around my backhand and hit my forehand as hard as I can."

Berasategui won the first set when he anticipated another serve by the Italian to his backhand, then sent it flying down the line at set point to win 7-5.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
• Void C9 • XQ1076 • Q7 • K8S2

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
• Q91076 • CQ8742 • Void K8S2

Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
• 91076 • CQ8754 • Void K108432

Your right-hand opponent opens with an artificial game-forcing bid of two clubs. What action do you take?

Q.5 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
• A1087 • 7A8 • 98 • 98543

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

Pass 10 1 1 1

Pass 1 1 1 1

What do you bid now?

Q.6 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
• 98532 • 7 10 10 10 10 10 10

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Look for answers on Monday.

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Indurain wins 4th consecutive Tour de France title, joins the greats

PARIS (AFP) — Spaniard Miguel Indurain confirmed his status as one of cycling's greats here Sunday by cruising to his fourth Tour de France triumph in a row — and by far the most important victory of his career.

For Indurain's 1994 victory not only made a nonsense of all the experts' predictions, it also proved one and for all the breadth of the 30-year-old's talent, who only a year earlier had been branded a "bomber" and a "robot" rider.

Statistically, the win puts him almost on a par with the legendary Jacques Anquetil of France and Eddie Merckx of Belgium, who both won four tours in a row, Anquetil between 1961-1964 and Merckx between 1969-1972, on their way to career totals of five French crowns. A record equalled by Frenchman Hinault.

More importantly, however, Indurain won this year's race with real panache.

He was joined on the podium by Russian Piotr Ugrumov, second and Marco Pantani of Italy.

Frenchman Eddy Seigneur took the final stage, crossing the line in a sprint finish ahead of Frankie Andreu of the United States, after a five-man breakaway on the Champs Elysees.

Indurain celebrated his triumph — his fourth at Donington after wins in 1989, 1990 and 1991 — by riding up the finishing straight on one wheel, raising clenched fists and parading the Stars and Stripes on his lap of honour.

Doohan's second place, the 10th time in 10 races this season that he has been on the podium, keeps him 71 points clear of Schwantz with four rounds to go.

As the tyres on Luca Cadorna's Yamaha began to go off he was forced to drop back, finishing more than three seconds behind Doohan in third.

American John Kocinski was fourth on his Cagiva, ahead of teammate and fellow American Doug Chandler, with Alex Criville of Spain sixth on his Honda.

Italian Loris Capirossi won the 250cc Grand Prix to leap to the lead of the world championship standings.

The mental and physical torture proved so severe that Swiss rival Rominger, the expert's favourite at the start in Lille but dogged with gastronenteritis, had already abandoned just after the halfway stage.

His bitter parting shot could have come from former podium finisher Claudio Chiappucci, former triple winner Greg LeMond, ex-double world champion Gianni Bugno or reigning champion Lance Armstrong — all of whom had bowed out by 14 of the event's 21 stages.

"It is the worst day of my career," Indurain is unbeatable," cried Rominger.

The 33-year-old, buoyed on by a hat-trick of wins in the Tour de France as well as Indurain's early season problems — a pollen allergy and knee injury undermined his bid to win a third tour of Italy in a row — had based the entire season on his French campaign.

He had even topped the Spaniard as the world number one just before the start — only to be ground into the dirt in the mountains, theoretically his strongest discipline and where he was favoured to outperform Indurain.

The 11th stage in the Pyrenees proved the turning point.

Just two days after taking two minutes off Rominger in the time trial — and over five off British specialist and reigning Olympic pursuit champion Chris Boardman — Indurain more than doubled their lead in the climb to Lourdes.

Spurred into action by Italian climber Marco Pantani, who came second to Indurain's third in the Giro, he ruthlessly attacked after spotting Rominger in trouble up the 1,560-metre climb.



Miguel Indurain

He repeated the move the next day, allowing Frenchman Richard Virenque to win the stage by a massive margin but again taking three minutes off the despairing Rominger on the way to Luz Ardiden.

Indurain won neither the 11th or 12th stage but his superb tactics had all but guaranteed overall victory. Rominger quit the race the next day — on Indurain's birthday.

By then, only a crash or illness could change the course of the tour and the mass from Navarre had a close shave on the 15th stage while hurtling down Mont

Ventoux, the tragic landmark that saw the death of British rider Tom Simpson in 1967.

The leader lost his back wheel on a hairpin bend and came to within inches of crashing off the road and down the mountain side as he fought to regain control of his bike.

That miss, however, proved as good as a mile. Of as good as the 2,480 miles that it took Indurain to cycle into history.

Russian Piotr Ugrumov produced a late flurry to slash the yellow jersey's lead but even then Indurain, the master tactician, seemed in total control.

After hoopla, Simpson case comes down to science

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After all the out-of-court hoopla over a reward, a hot line and accusations of planted evidence, the O.J. Simpson case is moving into the more staid realm of forensic science.

The trial could turn into a showcase for the reliability of genetic fingerprinting, with attention focused on a few test tubes of blood in a laboratory, and on the letters DNA.

Can such tests really prove whether a defendant is innocent or guilty? Should science send someone to the gas chamber?

Some scientists call DNA testing the greatest forensic evidence breakthrough since fingerprinting.

Others say it is subject to laboratory errors and evidence contamination and cannot be trusted.

"This (case) will have a tremendous impact on people's perception of DNA evidence," said Simon Ford, a molecular biologist and pro-

fessor at the University of California at Irvine.

Studies Ford has conducted are quoted in a defense motion arguing for strict controls on DNA testing of blood, hair and tissue samples before the tests are even begun.

But Ford and another authority in the field, William Thompson, said sample splitting and duplicate testing are the only guarantee of reliable results.

So-called DNA fingerprinting looks for unique characteristics that constitute each person's genetic makeup. Laboratories extract DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) from such things as skin, blood or hair found at a crime scene and compare it with samples from suspects and victims.

Ford and Thompson are part of a growing group of experts who advocate rigorous testing controls in criminal cases, including requirements for duplicate tests.

"Errors can be caught or

prevented when you do duplicate testing," said Thompson, also a professor at University of California-Irvine.

He noted that double-checking of tests is routine in other areas of science.

But Ford and another authority in the field, William Thompson, said sample splitting and duplicate testing are the only guarantee of reliable results.

The first person executed in the United States on the basis of genetic fingerprinting was Timothy W. Spencer, a serial killer dubbed the "Southside Strangler" who was put to death in Virginia in April.

Prosecutors said that without DNA evidence collected at the crime scenes, they never would have been able to convict Spencer in 1988 of raping and murdering four women.

Legal experts question whether the early focus on DNA evidence in the Simp-

son case tends to telegraph a defense concern that blood, hair and tissue samples would tend to convict the defendant. Thomson said just the opposite seems true.

"If I were guilty I don't think I would want duplicate testing," said the professor, whose specialty is science and the courts. "I would sit back and wait for the prosecution laboratory results and then argue that there was error in the testing."

Ford said the possibility of error and contamination is real and has been a problem in many cases.

Two of the lawyers recruited by the defense to handle the DNA motion have challenged DNA evidence on those grounds in other trials.

The two New York lawyers, Barry Scheck, a professor at Cardozo Law School, and Peter Neufeld, an expert in the DNA field, have urged stricter regula-

tions on DNA testing and have sought to exclude it as evidence in many cases.

From a defense lawyer's viewpoint, DNA testing can be both a plus or a minus, said attorney Harland Braun.

"If the results are inconsistent (with Simpson's DNA), they'll open the county jail doors the next day (and let him out)," Braun said. "But if it's positive, could be devastating unless you can show there's something wrong with the lab."

Another option exists, noted Harmon: Simpson's lawyers could be gambling that the tests will prove positive not just for the victim's blood or Simpson's blood but for blood of another person.

"If a person is guilty, the best they can hope for is some stray piece of biological evidence that injects a fourth person into the case," said Harmon. "Then, for the purposes of your case, that becomes the real killer."

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Israeli acknowledgement of land most clear result of Wadi Araba talks

By Natasha Buhari
Special to the Jordan Times

PROGRESS on Jordan's territorial rights was by far the most clear result of last week's Wadi Araba bilateral talks with Israel despite Israelis efforts to be little the issue, according to Abdullah Touqan, head of the Jordanian boundary commission to the talks.

Although some negotiators felt that Israelis were trying to "ignore the facts behind Jordan's territorial demands," Dr. Touqan told the Jordan Times that the conflict on borders was contained within Jordan's scientific and legal approach.

He added that the wording of the British mandate document defining Jordan's borders with Palestine were clear and did not warrant the argument.

The British mandate agreement between the United Kingdom and then Transjordan defines Palestine as "the area which lies to the west of a line drawn from a point two miles west of the town of Aqaba on the Gulf of that name up the centre of Wadi Araba, Dead Sea and River Jordan to its junction with the River Yarmouk; thence up the centre of that river to the Syrian frontier," making Transjordan the area east of that line.

Whereas the mandate of Transjordan was entrusted to the British as early as July 24, 1922, the agreement was only ratified in Jerusalem in February 1928.

One negotiator told the Jordan Times that although considerable progress had been achieved on the border track, the water issue still stands "in limbo."

Dr. Touqan said that the July 18-19 Wadi Araba negotiations resulted in signing an agreement on borders in which Israel restated its com-



Dr. Abdullah Touqan

mmitment to accepting the British mandate document as the mainframe of addressing territorial issues between the two countries.

The Wadi Araba talks were the first to be held in the region in a tent straddling common borders. The talks addressed water, border and security issues based on the common agenda signed in Washington on Sept. 14, 1993, and the sub-agendas on borders, security and territories signed June 7, 1994.

The Jordanian negotiations over borders, Dr. Touqan feels, have advanced a satisfactory distance towards solving the border problem, but it is a long and arduous trip and "this delicate issue" should be dealt with one stage at a time to ensure accuracy and gradual flow of events.

The "boundary work" will start with forming a joint technical team of experts (JTTE) to agree on "common understandable maps" that have to be compatible to Jordan's territorial rights, he said. The JTTE will also tackle other related issues like "boundary maintenance and administration" for which a commission has been set up to "maintain consistency on territorial issues after the peace negotiations culminate in a treaty of peace," he said.

Only after demarcation and definition of international borders is completed, the security commission will enter into military and security arrangements on and around the areas of the international borders, Dr. Touqan asserted.

"To us in Jordan, boundaries are one of the most significant and important manifestations of territorial sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction," said Dr. Touqan, stressing that, as stipulated in the common agenda and sub-agendas, Jordan reinforces its rights of sovereignty over its land "without prejudice to any territories that came under Israeli rule in 1967."

"I do not discuss (with Israelis) anything to do with areas of the occupied West Bank or the Palestinian self-rule areas; what we discuss is purely a Jordanian-Israeli issue — it is Jordan's right as a sovereign state," he said.

Dr. Touqan affirmed that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before reaching mutually satisfactory solutions on the borders and water rights.

"When we do reach a solution and an Israeli commitment to our rights, these will be incorporated into a peace treaty," Dr. Touqan affirmed.

On Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation, Dr. Touqan said that the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral committee and the Israeli-Jordanian U.S. trilateral committee will be moving simultaneously on the definition and implementation of joint projects.

For practical and pragmatic reasons, development projects would be concentrated in the sector of Aqaba-Eilat to the Dead Sea area, "simply because most of the projects lie in that area which is the longest border we share," he said.



PATIENT WAIT: An Israeli soldier checks Palestinian workers' ID cards at the Erez (AFP photo) Israel closed it last week following violence

Abequa killed wife 'without thinking'

By Tareq Ayyoub
The Associated Press

JUWEIDEH PRISON — A Jordanian accused of murdering his American wife in New Jersey said Sunday he was sorry he had killed her, but felt he had no alternative in order to retain the guardianship of their children.

Speaking to the Associated

Press at this prison, 20 kilometres south of Amman, Mohammad Abuqua dismissed an American request for his extradition and said he "preferred" to be tried by Jordanian courts.

Mr. Abuqua, 46, a naturalized American citizen, is sought by U.S. authorities on charges of strangling his estranged wife, Nihal, 40, at her Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, apartment and fleeing to Jordan with the couple's two children — Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3. Nihal Abuqua's body was discovered on July 6.

On Saturday, police announced Mr. Abuqua had confessed to the crime.

Mr. Abuqua, a former mechanic with the Jordanian army who went to the United States in 1985, said he killed his wife on July 4 and fled his wife from Nashville, Tennessee, on July 6.

In a calm and composed tone, he recounted the events that led to the killing and his flight. The interview was conducted in English in the presence of prison officials in a well-furnished room near his cell, which he shares with 50 others.

The tall, lean man with a salt-and-pepper beard claimed his wife had been unfaithful to him, denied him the right to live with his children and sought a divorce.

"She wanted to raise the kids the way she liked," he said. "She rejected my requests to come to Jordan. She was f... around with her

boy friend. She didn't allow me to live with my kids. Therefore I killed her."

Mr. Abuqua, who was wearing a neat pair of jeans, said he had lived in Nashville and worked as a mechanic after his wife kicked him out of their New Jersey apartment in March 1994. The children lived with their mother.

Speaking after he performed the Muslim noon prayer, he said he returned to New Jersey on July 4 to "negotiate with her on our life, our problems in the family, how we raise the kids."

"She said she had to raise the kids by herself."

"She made me a cup of tea, put the kids to sleep and we continued our talk about our problem. I don't file for divorce. I don't believe in divorce because I'm Muslim. I have my kids and I want to raise them as Muslim," he said.

Mr. Abuqua, who claimed he "did not drink, did not smoke," said he did not consider his wife, an American citizen of Turkish origin, a Muslim although she was born one.

"I told her we should save our kids... out of drugs, out of alcohol, and she said, 'you can see your kids once a month,' I said this is not the way I want it."

Mr. Abuqua said his wife ordered him to leave and threatened to call police. She then tried to find out how much money he had and began pulling his wallet and paycheck from his pocket, precipitating a fight, he said.

"She started calling me bad names. I lost my temper, I pushed her down, without blinking I put my hand around her neck, then she lost her life," he said.

"I had no choice... I'm sorry for what happened because I tried to do my best to



Mohammad Abuqua

stay together as one family as husband, wife and kids and she was the one who refused," said Mr. Abuqua.

He said he hid her body under the bed before the children awoke.

He later went to Nashville, cleared his bank account and flew with the children to London on his Jordanian passport. He said his wife had hidden his American passport and he could not find it.

From London, Mr. Abuqua and the children flew to Amsterdam and then Beirut, then landed in Amman on July 8.

He said he took his children sightseeing to the port of Aqaba, some 350 kilometres south of Amman, and other sites until July 15.

On that day, he left his children with one of his sisters and travelled overland to Iraq to borrow some money from friends there, he said.

He was arrested July 20 when at an Iraqi health centre for an obligatory AIDS test, he said. Iraqi embassy officials confirmed the account.

He was banded over to the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad and taken back to Amman by Jordanian security forces.

Mr. Abuqua, whose left arm was in a cast, said during interrogation he was treated well and his confession was made without coercion.

He said he had broken his arm in a fall in Jordan.

Nigerians held in Gambia

BANJUL (R) — Gambian army officers who ousted President Dawda Jawara in a bloodless coup have put under house arrest 10 Nigerian officers working with the military, officials said on Sunday.

Mr. Jawara was aboard a U.S. ship in Banjul harbour with his family and senior officials hoping to negotiate with the ruling council of four army lieutenants.

The Nigerian army officers included the former commander of the 800-strong Gambian army, Colonel Bouba Kar Dada, who was preparing to leave Gambia. His re-

placement, Colonel Lawan Gwadab, who took office last month, is currently in Nigeria.

State radio was off the air but independent Radio One broadcast a communiqué appealing to people to report for work on Monday and asking permanent secretaries to assume the duties of government ministers who have fled or been detained.

The capital Banjul was calm, the market was open and people were going about their business normally. An overnight curfew was in force from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

International telephone

lines, which were cut on Friday, were working again.

Hospital staff in Banjul confirmed there had been no casualties in the coup, which began as a rampage through the capital on Friday by soldiers demanding back pay.

Officials said the mutineers wanted higher wages and the withdrawal of 70 Nigerian military advisers in Gambia.

Gambian radio said soldiers had arrested Vice President Saitou Sabally and established a provisional ruling council consisting of lieutenants Yayah Jammeh, F. D. Sabally, Sadibou Haydara and I. Signate.

Qouriea defends World Bank

ABU DIS (Agencies) — Financial problems facing the new self-rule authority cannot be blamed on the World Bank and donor countries, Palestinian Economy "minister" Ahmad Qouriea said Sunday.

"The Palestinians are not the victims of any special mistrust," he said, distancing himself from other Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders, including Chairman Yasser Arafat, who have savaged the bank and donors.

"The procedures for the disbursement of aid promised by the international community are long throughout the world," he told the AFP in Abu Dis, his family's home village on the edge of Jerusalem.

Mr. Qouriea, known as Abu Alaa, was due later Sunday to hold his first meeting with Israel's Finance Minister Avraham Shohat since autonomy began and he returned home 10 days ago.

The two men negotiated the economic agreement incorporated in the overall accord which launched autonomy on May 4.

Mr. Qouriea stressed the need to "work up relations between the Palestinian authority and the donor countries to build up confidence."

The international community pledged \$720 million for autonomy this year. Only \$47.5 million have been advanced so far and Mr. Arafat has repeatedly accused the Sirius for an unspecified length of time after an incident July 20 between Norwegian whalers and Greenpeace. Both ships will likely remain in the hands of the Norwegian authorities until the end of the whaling season in mid-August, in order to allow the whalers to reach their quotas, police said.

The bank and donors have demanded the Palestinians establish open accounting procedures before paying out more money.

Mr. Qouriea said he signed agreements with the World Bank three weeks ago for \$54 million to pay police and civil servants during July, August and September, \$150 million for emergency reconstruction projects and \$18 million for feasibility studies and training.

"For the last quarter, we will have to negotiate with the donor countries and the World Bank, which are best about financing the current budget and prefer to finance the export of their goods and technology," he said.

The minister voiced hope that tenders for the first schemes to improve roads, water supplies and treatment plants would be out in the coming weeks.

"If the (\$150 million) agreement is applied by the end of the year, I believe the Palestinians will see real changes on the ground. If not, the credibility of the peace process will be in danger," he warned.

But the minister stressed that the new authority would have to get down to work.

"We don't have a magic wand to wave to change everything from one day to the next," he admitted. "We are going to start collecting taxes in two weeks at most and we hope to raise \$350 million a year."

The annual autonomy budget should be around \$500 million with a planned deficit of \$150 million.

Mr. Qouriea rejected calls by Palestinian Finance minister Mohammad Nashashibi for an immediate renegotiation of the economic accord with Israel.

"I speak in the name of the Palestinian leadership and not in the name of Mr. (Continued on page 3)

Column 8

Norway seizes second Greenpeace ship in three days

OSLO (AFP) — The Norwegian coast guard seized a Greenpeace vessel Saturday for interfering with a whale hunt in the second such detention in three days. The coast guard towed the ship, the Solo, towards the port of Egersund, 300 kilometres southwest of Oslo, where it was expected to arrive late Saturday to be turned over to police. The Solo will join Greenpeace's other arrested vessel, the Sirius, in Egersund. Police said the Solo was

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Sceptical Jordanians watch for benefits of summit

By Jack Redden
Reuter

AMMAN — When King Hussein shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday, Jordanians at home will be watching for rewards for extending a recognition withheld throughout a 46-year state of war.

Expectations have been raised by a media campaign that has portrayed Israel as accepting Jordanian water and land claims and Washington guaranteeing to provide military aid and write off \$950 million in debts. None of the benefits is certain.

The government's need to show gains is understandable: In the space of

eight days, it has ignored the objections of Syria to its drive for peace and given Israel a series of long-sought concessions.

Peace talks were moved to the region last week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres became the highest-ranking Israeli publicly received in Jordan and on Monday the summit opens in Washington. Jordan had refused all such gestures during the previous two-and-a-half years of peace talks.

"His Majesty voices pride in support of majority of people in